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Parlacen Requests Restoration of 'Liberties' in Guatemala

PA2805220993 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 28 May 93 p 3

[Text] The Central American Parliament (Parlacen) on 27 May asked that free exercise of restricted individual and social liberties be restored as soon as possible to attain the prompt normalization of the country's institutional life.

The regional forum issued a communique on 27 May expressing its concern about the serious events that have taken place and stating its profound desire for a prompt solution to the current political crisis and for the reestablishment of democratic and institutional order.

It furthermore affirms that because Parlacen is a free and democratically elected regional institution it represents the will of the people who form it and therefore has the duty to offer its good services to contribute to the solution of Guatemala's political crisis.

Relocation of Parlacen is Suggested

Deputies in the Honduran Congress have suggested that Parlacen, headquartered in Guatemala, be temporarily moved to another country. Honduran Congress President Rodolfo Irias Navas said the possibility must be considered in light of the self-inflicted coup in Guatemala by President Jorge Serrano.

The regional forum has alternative headquarters in Honduras and El Salvador. The Parlacen authorities, however have not yet expressed an opinion.

Caricom, Central America Sign Economic Agreement

FL2905021393 Bridgetown CANA in English 2204 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 28, CANA—The secretariats of the Caribbean and Central American economic integration groupings Friday signed an agreement here on institutional cooperation which they hope will be the forerunner to deeper relations between them.

"It is a very great step in a plan of action which encourages activity in the economic field and in culture," said Rafael Rodriguez, the secretary general of the [Secretariat of] Central American Economic Integration (SIECA).

Caribean Community and Common Market (Caricom) Secretary General Edwin Carrington initialed the agreement on behalf of the group of English-speaking Caribbean countries.

While the agreement will allow for a formalised flow of information between the two groups and provides for basic areas of institutional cooperation, it is well short of the ultimate goal of a formalised free trade arrangement or the concept of the Association of Caribbean States embraced by the Caricom leaders.

"It is not as wide as the ACS or in the precise mould group, but it would be a significant part thereof," Carrington said.

The signing took place on the second and closing day of a ministerial meeting between Caricom and SIECA countries which has on its agenda the prospect of a trade agreement between two groups.

"This agreement itself is not the basis of a trade agreement, but the ministerial discussions could lead to a framework agreement on trade," added Carrington

Delegates expected the ministerial meeting had made significant headway, but expected that it could go into the night as both sides thrashed out differences on access to the European banana market.

Both sides had found common ground on issues such as the need for a coordinated response to the North American Free Trade Agreement and concerns over U.S. action that would reduce loans under Puerto Rico's 936 Programme.

But bananas remain a thorny matter. The Central American countries insist that they should enter the European banana market on the same terms of Caribbean producers which traditionally have preferential access.

"The Caribbean delegates told them precisely how they felt, spelt out the damage that could be done to their economies if their banana exports were undermined and told the dollar growers that the arrangement set out by the Europeans was fair," said a diplomat.

The Central American ministers were expected to respond when the conference entered its evening session.

Caricom Discusses Central America, Banana Issue

FL0106000593 Bridgetown CANA in English 2301 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 31, CANA—The Caribbean Community (Caricom) has warned Central America relations between the two sub-regions could be seriously harmed, if the latter continues to insist the European Community remove preferential access to bananas from African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries. The fractious banana issue dominated discussions at the second Caricom- Central American ministerial conference held here late last week but the only reference to bananas in a joint communique was that the issue had been "thoroughly and frankly discussed."

A statement issued here Monday by Caricom ministers said they had made it clear to their Central American counterparts that they viewed the challenge to preferential access to Europe for ACP producers as "incompatible with the development of genuine cooperation between Caricom and Central America."

The statement said Caricom ministers expressed alarm at the recent conclusion of a General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) committee that, "tariff preference accorded by the EC to imports of bananas originating in ACP countries are inconsistent" with GATT. They were particularly disturbed by the decision of their Latin neighbours, to persist in challenging the EC's banana arrangements.

"The Caricom ministers stated that the best demonstration of political will to foster genuine cooperation between Central America and Caricom, would be for the Central American countries to accept the ACP and EC argument and to desist from seeking a second GATT panel to examine the new EC banana import regime," the statement said.

The Caricom ministers insisted that their preferential access enshrined in the Lome Convention and "the special undertakings and guarantees provided by the banana protocol" were essential for the survival of the banana industry, which is the lifeline for several Caribbean nations, particularly the Windward Islands. They considered "as being quite prejudicial" to Caricom, the action of Costa Rica, Colombia, Guatemala, Venezuela, and Nicaragua in challenging these arrangements through a GATT panel.

"Furthermore, they considered this action as being particularly unjustified, as Caricom banana suppliers, with 3 per cent of the world banana market, constitute absolutely no threat, neither to the Central American states which supply some 38 per cent, nor to the other Latin American banana-producing states which supply some 57 per cent," the statement said.

Caricom and other ACP producers have consistently argued that unless their fruit is given special protection in Europe, cheaper bananas from massive Latin American plantations would flood them out of the market. The Latin producers say the current arrangements put in place by the European Community violates the principles of trade liberalisation. But Dominica's Industry Minister Charles Maynard, who like other Caricom ministers was in Kingston for a meeting late Monday and Tuesday with E.C representatives regarding Lome IV Convention programmes, reminded journalists here Monday that "liberalisation of trade is not an end in itself."

According to Maynard, Caricom ministers had pointed out to their Central American counterparts that liberalisation, "has to advance the condition of the human being."

"If what it ends up doing is to wipe out countries and substantially reduce the quality of life of people, then it is not serving the purpose."

"Probably they (Central American ministers) have had some more facts than they have had before and they have had a chance for a face to face understanding on how we feel on this matter," said Maynard.

Caricom Secretary General Edwin Carrington stressed that the ministers were, "not here to negotiate...." "...There was no precondition for an agreement, they were here to discuss," he remarked.

Cuba

Carlos Lage on Foreign Investment, U.S. Policy

FL0106211293 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] The daily paper GRANMA today carries the third and final part of the interview that Carlos Lage granted Mario Vazquez Rana, director of the Mexican newspaper EL SOL. Topics discussed were the 24 February elections and their conclusive results, the guarding of the ballot boxes by children and young people, and the important fact that the nominees were proposed by the population.

Concerning foreign investment, Lage said that a policy that would make a presence in Cuba attractive to the Latin American countries has been designed. This decision is aimed at encouraging the region's investors and at contributing to the economic integration of the continent, which is necessary. Lage, who is executive secretary of the Council of Ministers, said that dozens of partnerships have been signed for, or are already operative, in very different fields: among others, tourism, the steel-working industry, construction materials, cosmetics, and perfumery.

In answer to a question from Vazquez Rana, Lage said that from his point of view, it is not a matter of making White House policy toward Cuba more flexible but rather to have it change. Lage said: In the final analysis, I do not know if the U.S. Administration has any real desire to stamp any changes on this policy.

In another part of the interview, Lage said we will manage to await the day on which reason and sound and unprejudiced judgment will prevail in U.S. policy. Lage acknowledged the importance of virtues in men and expressed his trust that the injustice today being committed against our country, its achievements, and its leaders will not last.

Commentary Views Economic Relations With Russia

PA2805182793 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 May 93

[Roberto Morejon commentary]

[Text] Economic relations between Russia and Cuba are being reactivated on a realistic basis following the sudden drop in trade as a result of the events that led to the disappearance of the former USSR.

Perhaps at the beginning, the heir to the former USSR, meaning Russia, thought that by simply deciding to become a capitalist country western markets would lower their protectionist barriers. This did not occur, however, and Russia now intends to restore its ties with those countries that used to belong to the defunct Council for Mutual Economic Assistance and seeks ways to create a trade system favorable for all. This statement was made by Vladimir Shumeyko, first deputy prime minister of the Russian Federation, who toured Havana and other areas of Cuba heading a high-level delegation that discussed here the progress made through the trade agreements.

The visit by the top Russian representative and the nature of the talks and agreements signed with Cuba showed it is possible that the accelerated decrease in trade between Russia and Cuba has bottomed out. The points included in a joint document signed as a result of the bilateral talks represent for Cuba a means of finding solutions to its vital economic problems.

In this regard, we note the determination of Moscow and Havana to support the island's sugar industry with spare parts, to reactivate paralyzed industries that were built with Soviet technology, to reactivate the oil refinery in southern Cienfuegos Province, and to produce tires and fertilizers.

It is a key attempt because Cuban sugar mills are facing maintenance problems, agriculture suffers a lack of fertilizers, and the scarcity of spare parts and tires adversely affects daily life. The Cienfuegos refinery is a sleeping giant that is badly in need of oil to refine.

Observers witnessed the inclusion of businessmen in the Russian delegation that traveled to Cuba, their visit to the Varadero resort, and the joint agreement reached by both countries to promote joint enterprises and cooperatives.

The new realistic ties between Cuba and Russia do not contradict Moscow's intention to establish its relationship with Cuba based on international market prices. But it is also an opportunity to obtain mutual advantages with the full respect of both sides for each countries' internal processes.

Havana Notes Most-Favored-Nation Status for China

FL2805222493 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1937 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] U.S. President William Clinton today officially announced his decision to renew for one year the trade clause giving China most-favored-nation status, thereby opening a new chapter in U.S. policy toward China. The communique issued by the White House stipulates that any extension beyond June 1994 of the clause in question will be subject to a number of conditions.

Clinton said in a communique: China occupies an important place in our foreign policy. It is the most densely populated nation, the expanding economy that is growing most quickly and is the most flourishing, and is a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

The U.S. president had said earlier that he had decided to grant China most-favored-nation status in order to

buttress China's modernization. The most-favored-nation clause guarantees a country that its exports to the United States will not be subject to customs duties.

National CDR Coordinator on Fourth Congress Activities

FL2905183493 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1801 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] Sixto Batista affirmed that Committee for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] members from all provinces should work to arrive at the national CDR congress with concrete results in support of the country's priority tasks. Today, while speaking at the ninth forum, the national coordinator stressed the importance of promoting sugarcane harvest and planting activities, other agricultural labors, and national defense works.

In his speech, the division general added, that in addition to participating in these and other tasks, CDR members should not neglect the fight against crime and maintaining revolutionary vigilance—their reason for belonging to the organization. Regarding the Fourth CDR Congress, Sixto Batista emphasized that holding the congress in each province offers the possibility of greater participation of the masses, which gives the process a broader democratic character.

Roundup of Politburo Members' Activities 22 - 28 May

FL2805172893

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of fileworthy reports on the activities of members of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba carried on Havana radio and television in Spanish between 22 May and 28 May.

Radio Reloj at 1432 GMT on 22 May reports that Jorge Lezcano attended the ceremony at which a new tourist facility in Havana, the Chateau Miramar Hotel, was turned over to the Cubanacan Corporation. Lezcano said: Finishing this installation constitutes significant proof of the nation's determination to develop tourism. The four-star, 50-room Chateau Miramar was damaged by the storm of the century as it was on the verge of completion.

Reloj further reports, at 1438 GMT on 22 May, that Division General Senen Casas Regueiro, minister of transportation, presented banners to four "new-type" brigades for railway maintenance and repair in Santiago de Cuba. These brigades are highly productive and efficient, and possess their own tools and other resources. Esteban Lazo, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba in Santiago de Cuba Province, said he was sure these workers will fulfill the commitments they have made, upon forming these brigades, of which there are already 118 throughout Cuba.

Radio Rebelde at 1700 GMT on 22 May reports that Pedro Ross Leal and Division General Ulises Rosales del Toro presided over a meeting of the national committee of the National Revolutionary Armed Forces Civilian Workers Union in Havana. The main subjects on the agenda were the fulfillment of production plans, the National Association of Innovators and Efficiency Experts, the increase of construction capabilities, the food program, worker welfare, emulations, and political and ideological work.

Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks at 0000 GMT on 24 May report that a scientific delegation from WHO and the Pan American Health Organization visited the Heroes de Baire Hopital in Isle of Youth. Dr. Concepcion Campa, director of the Carlos J. Finlay Institute, accompanied the delegation throughout their tour.

Radio Rebelde at 0900 GMT on 25 May reports that Candido Palmero has urged Havana Province farmers to increase discipline and productivity to meet the plan of producing 14 million quintals of produce.

Radio Reloj at 1430 GMT on 27 May reports that Esteban Lazo Hernandez presented banners to the Futuro and Victoria de Giron youth agricultural brigades in Santiago de Cuba.

Radio Rebelde at 2300 GMT on 27 May reports that, today, Carlos Lage Davila, vice president of the Council of State, visited Moa accompanied by several ministers. Lage toured several places of economic interest in the municipality and awarded a contingent the vanguard banner. Lage underscored the efforts of the workers to overcome difficulties.

Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision at 0000 GMT on 28 May report that Pedro Ross was present at the arrival in Cuba on 27 May of the ship from Mexico carrying the second and 350-ton aid donation sent via Mexico's Va Por Cuba organization. This shipment included 173 tons of urea, 96 tons of lubricants, foodstuffs, and medicines.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

New Banana Industry Chief Announces Reorganization

FL0206134593 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1100 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] There is a new head of the Caribbean banana industry. Leslie (DeBic) reports from St. Vincent.

[Begin recording] The newly appointed acting general manager of the Banana Growers Association, Mr. Simeon Green, has described the [words indistinc] banana industry as being in a crisis. He pointed out that the dissatisfaction of the farmers, the hatred of the management personnel, and the unfavorable exchange rate are some of the indicators of a crisis. Mr. Green also declared that there has been a decline of some $5 million in banana earnings for the first quarter of the year. He

also pointed out that although there is a financial problem, the industry is not in the red. He says the problems are not [words indistinct], but some reorganization will be necessary.

Barbados

Ambassador to OAS Condemns Serrano Action

FL2905015693 Bridgetown CANA in English 2135 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 28, CANA—Barbados' ambassador to the Organisation of American States, Dr Rudi Webster, has condemned Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano's suspension of the Spanish-speaking country's constitution.

Addressing a special session of the Permanent Council of the OAS, Webster, expressed deep concern and anxiety over yet another interruption of the democratic process in a country in this hemisphere, according to a statement from the Foreign Minsitry.

He said the Barbados delegation condemned the action of President Serrano in orchestrating what amounted to a military coup against his own government. There was, the ambassador continued, no justification for resorting to non-democratic means to solve the problems of Guatemala.

Tuesday, Serrano dissolved Congress and the Supreme Court and suspended constitutional rule in a self-proclaimed campaign to stamp out corruption and fight against what he termed the "drug traffickers and mafia."

Dr Webster said assaults on the legislature and the judiciary, and the use of coercive forces of the state to suppress freedom in the name of a higher good will not lead to greater prosperity, justice or public safety, but only to greater tyranny.

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights also condemned the action of the president of Guatemala.

Barbados supported the call for an ad hoc meeting of foreign ministers to discuss the crisis.

Opposition Party Issues Policy Declaration

FL3005202893 Bridgetown CANA in English 1947 GMT 30 May 93

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, May 30, CANA—The four-year-old National Democratic Party (NDP) on Sunday issued a comprehensive declaration of the principles and policies that would shape the programme of an NDP government.

Presenting the declaration at the NDP's annual delegates conference, political leader Dr Richie Haynes said the island's two dominant parties - the ruling Democratic Labour Party (DLP) and official opposition Barbados Labour Party (BLP) - had failed Barbadians.

"Our nation is crying out for new leadership, for genuine change, not exchange, as exchange from DLP to BLP and back to DLP has proved to be disastrous to the nation," he said.

The NDP, a splinter of the DLP, was formed in 1989 after Haynes, a former finance minister, and three parliamentary backbenchers left the governing party as a result of differences with the leadership, mainly Prime Minister Erskine Sandiford.

Summing up the philosphy of the NDP, Haynes said the party "believe(s) in and will seek to build a Christian social democracy, with social justice and economic emanicipation for all, especially the working people in our society and those in need of help and assistance from the state."

In the area of government and constitutional change, the NDP said it was committed to replacing the Queen of Great Britain as the Barbados head of state with a Barbadian. The declaration did not say, however, if making Barbados a republic was an NDP goal.

The NDP, which did not win a seat in the 1991 general election, promised the reintroduction of local government, making the Senate whose members are hand-picked at present, into "a democratic institution", giving Barbadians the constitutional means for the recall of elected members of Parliament, reducing the salaries of government ministers and putting strict curbs on overseas travel by ministers.

The NDP also said it would depoliticise appointments to statutory boards by selecting members on the basis of merit instead of political allegiance.

Referring specifically to 1981 and 1991, the NDP rapped governments in power during those years for engaging in "irresponsible" heavy spending ahead of general elections.

"...We will make it a criminal offense punishable by imprisonment for anyone in the future to abuse office in this manner," the declaration said.

Barbados was taken into standby arrangements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) following the 1981 and 1991 general elections after the governments won re-election.

The NDP restated its position that a low tax regime was the best thing for Barbados. In this regard, an NDP government would reduce income tax and ease taxes for the productive sectors of agriculture, manufacturing and tourism.

"Events over the past twelve years have demonstrated that high tax regimes lead to economic decline and reductions in government revenue, while low tax regimes have had the opposite effect," the declaration said.

A low interest rate policy would be pursued by an NDP government. The declaration also promised a dismantling of the "useless array of foreign exchange controls".

The NDP said a fundamental objective of the economic policy of an NDP government would be the promotion of sustained economic growth.

"However such growth must not only be a book entry. It must be translated into jobs for people, money in their pockets, better social conditions, and better standards of living."

Haiti

Senate Group Condemns Serrano Action in Guatemala

FL2805213993 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1800 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] The Senate branch led by Senator Thomas Eddy Dupiton condemns President Jorge Serrano's bid for power that constitutes, according to him, a serious attack on democratic liberties. The Senate hopes that a concerted solution will quickly be found among Guatemalan institutions. The solution should be within the scope of the Constitution and of the laws of that country to prevent all hints of foreign intervention and all hasty decisions by regional or worldwide organizations—like the bitter experience Haiti now faces—asserts the Alliance branch of the Senate, which is against all possible sanctions against the people of Guatemala.

Nerette on Claim to Presidency, Relations With Bazin

FL0106205293 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Attorney Joseph Nerette says he is still president. He explains that his decision at the Villa d'Accueil was justified by his concern for seeing the country end the deadlock. Attorney Nerette does not provide a judgment on a possible joint cooperation, but says: I have nothing against the prime minister.

[Begin recording] [Nerette] [Words indistinct] (?I believed that) my withdrawal from the scene was compulsory to allow the country to find its path. Unfortunately, this has not happened.

[Unidentified correspondent] You said that you are still in power. You have been flexible as well.

[Nerette] Certainly, in order to allow Bazin to find his way because I have nothing against the prime minister. You should understand that I am above those banalities. You have in front of you a great man who has reached prominence by self-control. [end recording]

DeRonceray Advocates Nerette Reinstatement as President

FL0106161593 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Professor Hubert DeRonceray of the Mobilization for National Development [MDN] maintains his call for reactivation of Article 149 of the 1987 Constitution, but with the return of Justice Joseph Nerette as president of the country. Reacting to international mediator Dante Caputo's statements on last week's Worldnet program, DeRonceray accuses the Lavalas government of stirring things up for occupation of the country. He describes the dynamics of this attempt:

[Begin recording, in Creole] The WASHINGTON POST of 25 May writes that Jean-Bertrand Aristide agrees to a foreign army's invasion of Haiti to ensure his return to power, provided this Army is not given everything. Now the Lavalas partisans in and out of the country get tangled up with this matter of occupation, which represents a danger for everyone [ki make san pou tout moun]. If the foreigners land, many big fishes who think they will return to the National Palace will be buried instead. [end recording]

The international community is considering ways to apply new sanctions against Haiti following the failure of Dante Caputo's sixth mission. The MDN president hopes for a new start in resolving the crisis that the country has been experiencing for nearly 20 months. DeRonceray, who favors the return of Justice Nerette, evokes the new cape [as heard] the country will have to weather under the government of the latter. DeRonceray will have to invite his partisans to clear the country of those he considers homeland sellers. He uses these words to describe those who encourage the deployment of a multinational force in Haiti.

PM Proposes 7 Jun for Conference; Aristide Offers Proposals

FL0106215293 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1045 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] The Haitian political crisis is at an impasse following the failure of the recent Caputo/Pezzullo mission. The steps announced from inside the country to solve the crisis appear to go unheeded. In any case, the proposals for a solution have not yet become reality. It is however necessary to wait until the end of the first week of June, in order to have a clearer idea of the national conference suggested by Prime Minister Marc Bazin.

When issuing the invitation, Bazin had planned on 7 June for the beginning of the conference, but no acknowledgement has come from parliament. On the other hand, the [Aristide] presidential commission basically declined this invitation.

Meanwhile, the president in exile, Jean-Bertrand Aristide lifted the veil of secrecy on his stand regarding the proposal of the international community to send a police

force to Haiti. Aristide basically made a counter proposal. In a letter to the UN secretary general, Father Aristide requested the presence of technical assistance for the economy and the judiciary. He also suggested that the Haitian Armed Forces be reduced to 1,000 personnel and a professionalized police force be formed.

Aristide To Attend OAS General Assembly in Nicaragua

FL2805150493 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Jose Pallais, the Nicaraguan deputy minister of foreign affairs, asserted on 27 May that President Aristide will attend the OAS General Assembly that will take place in Managua on 7 to 12 June. The yearly OAS General Assembly will be preceded by an informal dialogue on 6 June between the ministers who will exclusively analyze the military coup that overthrew Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the civilian coup of Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori in April 1992.

OAS member states propose the reinstatement of President Aristide, who was the victim of the 30 September 1991 coup. In Managua, the ministers will deal with, among other topics, the consolidation of democracy in the region, poverty and the environment, and regional integration. It is not a question of sending an international police force to Haiti to resolve the crisis.

Casimir on Multinational Force, Military Putschists

FL2805153293 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Jean Casimir, the permanent representative of the lavalas government to the United Nations, stated during the OAS special meeting that the legitimate government could not accept a multinational force, aimed at helping to establish a Haitian police force, working in joint cooperation with the military putschists.

[Begin Casimir recording] We cannot accept a multinational presence, aimed at helping us to establish a new police force, working in cooperation with the military putschists. We cannot accept General Raoul Cedras choosing the members of the new police force, having a right of veto the choice of the prime minister and the constitutional government that he personally sent into exile. We publicly state that the multinational presence aimed at helping to establish a new police force, at reforming our institutions [word indistinct] the immediate departure of the putschists [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Protestant Clergy Disapproves Reconciliation Commission

FL2805210593 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1030 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] The Catholic Church should not support the national reconciliation commission, according to the Protestant Federation of Haiti [FPH]. I totally disapprove of the idea of the Haitian Episcopal Conference's [CEH] supporting a national reconciliation commission, a source close to FPH told the Haitian Press Agency [AHP] on 27 May. FPH named an emissary to the Haitian Catholic bishops and other sectors, particularly business circles, for an initiative aimed at favoring political dialogue in Haiti. Without identifying the results of those steps, this source says that no sector will be able to resolve this crisis alone. Any initiative designed to produce this result requires the concerted action and the collaboration of all sectors, concludes this source.

By the way, in a communique broadcast on a sister station on 26 May, CEH confirmed that a meeting of Haitian bishops with Villa d'Accueil Prime Minister Marc Bazin was held on 21 May. CEH took the initiative of working toward the formation of a national reconciliation commission. The information received by AHP on 25 May from CEH members recalls that FPH called for a national dialogue for a solution to the country's crisis in a communique published on 14 May.

Government Expresses Deep Concern Over Guatemala

PA0206133593 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0438 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Jun (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Government said on 1 June that the return to institutional order in Guatemala is necessary for peace in that country and to continue with the integration efforts that have begun in Central America. A communique issued on the evening of 1 June in Tlatelolco said that the Mexican Government expresses its deep concern over the recent events in Guatemala, following the removal of President Jorge Serrano as head of the Executive Branch.

The document said "Mexico wants peace, democracy, and development for Guatemala. What is happening in Guatemala is highly important for Mexico, given the geographical proximity and the profound historic ties that unite us." It added that the evolution of bilateral relations over the past four years has allowed the two countries to develop border cooperation programs; economic and social development; and scientific, technical, cultural, and educational cooperation. "These programs have allowed us to reach unprecedented levels of understanding and cooperation between our two countries," it added.

The document stated that "the existence of democratic governments throughout the region has opened a new chapter for integration" and the return of constitutional order in Guatemala would allow the region to "intensify and broaden these efforts." "Otherwise, such efforts will be truncated," the document warns.

It also stated that Mexico, as a member of the group known as the Group of Friends of the Peace Process in Guatemala, believes the return to institutionality is necessary for a renewal of the peace negotiations, which will lead to a firm and lasting peace agreement. Mexico, along with Colombia, Spain, and Venezuela make up the group that seeks to promote talks between the government and the guerrilla organizations that have operated in that country for three decades, in an effort to find a negotiated peace.

"Mexico is confident that the democratic will of the Guatemalan people will allow a prompt reinstatement of constitutional order in this sister nation," the document added.

Group Calls For Return of Constitutional Order in Guatemala

PA0106144793 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Communique issued by the Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat in Mexico City on 31 May]

[Text] The Group of Friends, of which Mexico is a member, and which has made efforts to support the negotiations to attain a firm and lasting peace in Guatemala, deeply regrets that significant progress was not achieved in the latest round of talks between the Guatemalan Government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity that were held in Mexico.

It fears that the current situation created by the suspension of constitutional order and the restriction of guarantees will prevent the continuation and conclusion of the process.

The Group of Friends calls for the return of constitutional order in Guatemala so that the dialogue between the sides may be resumed followed by the support from the Group of Friends.

Official Explains Telefonos de Mexico Privatization

PA2805165193 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 27 May 93

[Report by Juan Manuel Pereira]

[Text] The privatization of Telefonos de Mexico is in keeping with the government's goal to guarantee the state's supervision, the improvement of service, and the modernization of the company, all within a clear and legal process that concluded on 20 December 1990.

The clarity and legality of this operation were necessary to achieve the goals of growth and development of the country's telecommunications sector and to strengthen Mexico's presence in national and international economic fields. The statements were made by Jacques Rogozinski, general director of Banobras [National Bank of Public Works and Services, Corp.], in a meeting with the Chamber of Deputies' Accounting Office's watchdog commission. He said 17 companies participated in the process for the privatization of Telefonos de Mexico, which guaranteed a climate of competition. The companies that won the bid were: Grupo Carzo, Southwestern Bell, and France Cable Radio. These companies not only guaranteed improvement in the quality of service, technological progress, and growth, but also offered the most money.

[Begin Rogozinsky recording] It is important to point out that the payment of $1.76 billion offered by the winning group, by the bid-winning package, means that for a fifth of the company's corporate capital, we obtained 53.1-percent more than what the entire company was worth at the beginning of the current administration, which was $1.15 billion. [end recording]

The concession documents of Telefonos de Mexico guaranteed the following aspects: the state's supervision in matters of telecommunications; a majority control of the company by Mexicans; the banning of monopolistic practices; the expansion and modernization of public, domestic, commercial, rural, and long distance telephones; and research and technological training. Rogozinsky also said that in the privatization of Telefonos de Mexico, a system of maximum prices was established.

[Begin Rogozinsky recording] The company must observe rate regulations. The regulations include a system of maximum rates, promote the reduction of operation costs, and force the company to be more efficient. [end recording]

Belize

PM Price Calls For Early Elections 30 Jun

FL0106215493 Bridgetown CANA in English 1929 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, June 1, CANA—Prime Minister George Price Tuesday asked Governor-General Dame Minita Gordon to dissolve the Belize Parliament and set a general election for June 30, more than a year ahead of the September 1994 end of his five year mandate. Price's People's United Party was returned to power in 1989 after five years in opposition.

Further on Call for Elections

FL0106233693 Bridgetown CANA in English 2202 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, June 1, CANA—Belize Prime Minister George Price Tuesday called a 30 June general election, more than a year before the five year mandate of his People's United Party (PUP) government was due to expire. The announcement of an early election came as no surprise to most Belizeans. The main opposition United Democratic Party (UDP) had predicted an early poll in light of overwhelming electoral successes by the PUP recently.

The PUP handsomely won a parliamentary by-election in the Freetown division of Belize City as well as the Belize City Council election. The 30 June general election will be contested by the PUP, the UDP, and the newly formed National Alliance for Belizean Rights headed by veteran politician Phillip Goldson.

El Salvador

Foreign Ministry Denies Granting Asylum to Serrano

PA0206035193 Paris AFP in Spanish 0212 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] San Salvador, 1 Jun (AFP)—On the evening of 1 June, the Salvadoran Foreign Ministry denied that deposed Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano is under asylum at the Salvadoran Embassy in Guatemala.

"Engineer Jorge Serrano is not at the Salvadoran Embassy in Guatemala nor has he requested asylum at that Embassy," the statement emphasized.

A source close to the Guatemalan military hierarchy had said that Serrano traveled on the afternoon of 1 June to El Salvador, where he had been granted asylum by President Alfredo Cristiani's government.

The source, who asked not to be identified, participated in the negotiations carried out by the Armed Forces General Staff and representatives of various civilian sectors on 1 June to ensure a return to constitutionality following the president's "resignation."

So far no official source has reported the whereabouts of Serrano, who was last seen in public on the morning of 1 June.

Guatemala

Serrano Reportedly Resigns Under Pressure

PA0106181993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1808 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 Jun (EFE)—Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano submitted his resignation on 1 June because of military and political pressures, sources close to the government palace and several political leaders have confirmed.

Guatemalan radio stations joined a network in view of the imminent official announcement on the country's new political course, while numerous high-ranking military officers, politicians, and journalists were gathering at the government palace.

Deputy Confirms Resignation

PA0106185993 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1828 GMT 6 Jun 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Deputy Hector Klee, a Guatemalan delegate to the Central American Parliament, has confirmed here that the Defense Ministry's Presidential Staff [office name as received] decided to oust President Jorge Serrano Elias on 1 June. Klee told NOTIMEX that all the region's congressmen were summoned to the National Palace to be informed on the situation.

Serrano's alleged resignation was not immediately confirmed by official sources but the report coincided with an announcement for a new conference convoked jointly by the Guatemalan president and Defense Minister Jose Domingo Garcia.

Military sources indicated that the defense minister and the 22 commanders of the country's military zones held an emergency meeting at the National Palace at 1200 [1800 GMT].

The Presidency did not confirm an announcement by Fernando Lobo Dubon, the president of the dissolved congress, who said that Serrano had reportedly resigned.

Army Installs Defense Minister as Interim President

PY0106183893 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1827 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Guatemala, 1 Jun (TELAM-SNI)—The Mexican television network ECO has reported that Guatemala's defense minister, General Jose Garcia Samayoa, today took over as interim Guatemalan president.

The Army delivered to ousted President Jorge Serrano, who staged a self-inflicted coup 10 days ago, a document rejecting his authority and installed the defense minister as chief of state.

Garcia Holds News Conference

PA0206000093 Guatemala City Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 2237 GMT 1 Jun 93

[News conference by Defense Minister Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa at the Presidential Palace in Guatemala City—live]

[Text] The Guatemalan Army, adhering to orders issued by the Constitutional Court and playing its traditional role, is hereby heeding the people's insistence and request for an immediate return to total constitutional and institutional order in the country. The Army is hereby assuming its traditional duty. Therefore, I will allow myself to read the following communique:

The Guatemalan Armed Forces, aware of national sentiment and in response to the people's insistence on the restoration of constitutional order, informs the Guatemalan people and the international community:

1. The Guatemalan Army, adhering to the decision of the Constitutional Court and popular sentiment regarding the full enforcement of the Constitution, has decided to publish and execute the decision issued by this high court on 25 May 1993. President of the Republic Jorge Antonio Serrano Elias has decided to resign.

2. Upon stepping down from the post of president of the Republic, the post must be temporarily filled, in accordance with the Constitution, by Vice President Gustavo Adolfo Espina Salguero, who has resigned. The vice president's resignation will authorize the corresponding duly purged organization, in accordance with Article 189 of the Constitution, to appoint the person who will complete the term for which Engineer Serrano Elias was elected.

3. The Guatemalan Army, based on the Constitutional Court's decree, assumes the responsibility of fully enforcing constitutional order, thereby fulfilling its constitutional attributes of maintaining the citizenry's security, thereby returning to the nation the constitutional framework as it is restructured in the transitory Article 21 of the Constitution.

4. Guatemalan diplomatic representatives abroad are asked to reflect on the resignations that have been presented, and they are urged to continue doing their jobs to support this return to our institutions.

5. The Constitutional Court has been asked to direct the process whereby these institutions will be restored. As of this moment this court will be in charge of that process, which it will conduct in fulfillment of the Constitution.

6. For the reinstallation of the Congress of the Republic, the political parties pledged to purge the members of this organization, as per popular demand.

7. The human rights ombudsman, the Nobel Peace prize winner, the churches of all denominations, political parties, labor unions, the business sector, universities, student associations, ethnic groups, professional organizations, media, and all the Guatemalan people are invited to support and defend this statement, which represents a national pledge for peace. This appeal includes all those up in arms, as a continuation of the reconciliation process in the Guatemalan nation. Thank you. [applause]

[Announcer] Guatemalan people, thank you for listening to this important and historical announcement by the Constitutional Court President Dr. Epaminondas Gonzalez and Defense Minister Division Gen. Jose Garcia Samayoa. This interesting news conference has thus concluded. It was offered by these high-ranking government officials of the Republic of Guatemala. Thank you and good afternoon.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Garcia] This situation must be studied. I believe the essential issue that prompted this event [words indistinct]. I beg you to allow us to continue working on the necessary legal and political issues.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Garcia] The state organizations must handle this. That is a legal issue [word indistinct]. You have heard the contents of the declaration and the Constitutional Court president has already stated it. Therefore, that is the situation.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Garcia] The vice president of the Republic assumes the post temporarily until he submits his resignation. Once the Congress of the Republic is installed it will have the legal mechanisms outlined in the institutional and constitutional norms to continue the corresponding process, until a constitutional framework is fully implemented.

[Reporter] Has Serrano left the country?

[Garcia] No one has left the country. We have guaranteed his safety and we have guaranteed respect as far as human rights are concerned and as far as the rights established [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Garcia] We have issued a public appeal in this concern for the [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Garcia] He must continue to work but those decisions must be adopted by whomever assumes the post. I

continue as national defense minister and I have not assumed any presidential post.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Garcia] Look, I will leave the president of the court.

[Gonzalez] The Constitutional Court will be asked to assume, according to the political Constitution, the leadership of the process to return to normalcy. Each of the questions you ask will undoubtedly [words indistinct] Constitution. If the president is not in his post, it is assumed by the vice president—according to the Constitution, which is what the Constitutional Court seeks, meaning the implementation of the country's Constitution. Given the resignation—which the Army announces he has submitted—the Congress of the Republic must study this resignation, accept it, and appoint the person who must complete the constitutional period [word indistinct].

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Gonzalez] That is another question that obviously [words indistinct]. There is no lack of a leader [acefalia].

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Gonzalez] There is a president of the Republic.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Gonzalez] It was his right according to the law but it was announced he resigned. Therefore, the vacancy occurs at the time when he is replaced by whoever is appointed by the Congress of the Republic.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Gonzalez] I think I already answered that. The vice president acts [words indistinct].

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]

[Gonzalez] We will do it. I ask you to be understanding.

Armed Forces Said To Withdraw Support for Serrano

PA0106191293 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1833 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 Jun (ACAN-EFE)— Jorge Serrano resigned from the presidency of Guatemala on 1 June after the Armed Forces withdrew the support they had given to his 25 May self-coup in order to back a civilian solution to the crisis.

According to political sources and sources of the outgoing government, the Army opted to ask Serrano to leave in view of the national and international pressure against his de facto regime and decided to support the restoration of the Constitution.

The military summoned a group of notables to the Presidential palace. This group is made up of businessmen and opposition leaders, including Nobel Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu.

One of those summoned, Ramiro de Leon Carpio, the human rights ombudsman, confirmed Serrano's resignation to ACAN-EFE after he arrived at the Palace. However, he noted that he does not know what were the terms negotiated for this resignation.

De Leon met with Defense Minister General Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa who, according to some political sources, will hold the country's reigns until the Legislative and Judicial Branches, which were dissolved by Serrano, are restored.

Radio transmissions were interrupted to form a national network that has asked the members of the Constitutional Court, which was also dissolved by Serrano, to go to the palace by "popular request."

Many politicians and journalists are gathering near the palace waiting for the official announcement on the restoration of the de jure system in the country.

Constitutional Court Members Summoned to Palace

PA0106193393 Guatemala City Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1858 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] We are calling for the attention of the honorable members of the Constitutional Court urging them to go to the National Palace by popular request. We repeat: We are calling for the attention of the honorable members of the Constitutional Court urging them to go to the National Palace by popular request.

Court Issues Document

PA0106210393 Guatemala City Radio Network in Spanish 1931 GMT 1 Jun 93

["Document" issued by Constitutional Court on in Guatemala City on 1 June]

[Text] Constitutional Court

Guatemala City, 31 May 1993 [as heard]

Whereas:
1. This court issued a ruling dated 25 May 1993 declaring unconstitutional a decree containing temporary government norms issued by the president of the Republic, thus abolishing those provisions, which are no longer in effect, and ordering the ruling's publication in the official gazette. On the same day, the Attorney General's Office was notified of the ruling pursuant to Article 185 of the Amparo Law on habeas corpus and constitutionality.

The rulings of this court oblige [vinculan] public branches and state organizations and have full effects over all of them. Pursuant to that norm, Article 78 of

that aforementioned law, which is also applicable to unconstitutionality cases, specifies that disobedience, delay, and opposition to a resolution issued during an amparo process on the part of a state official or employees and its decentralized and autonomous institutions are legal causes for dismissal. In addition to other duties specified in the law, Article 79 of the same law establishes criminal responsibilities.

2. Article 55 of the law pertaining to this matter specifies that in order to execute teh resolution properly the court may issue orders to the authorities, officials, and employees of the public administration or duty-bound persons [personas obligadas]. This concept is in keeping with Paragraph 1 of Article 203 of the Constitution that orders state organizations to give courts the assistance they require to execute their resolutions. Private citizens are also obliged to do the same.

3. In this specific case, it is established that the president has continued to act in evident disregard of the ruling. In fact, even offices of the official newspaper refused to receive the ruling to publish it. This is disobedience and opposition to the decisions issued by the court, thus there are pertinent legal responsibilities that must be fulfilled as a result of this. Consequently, it asks the government and defense ministers to take the necessary steps so that the ruling in question can be immediately published in the official newspaper and enforced by these two ministers.

Applicable laws and articles: Second; 140th; 141st; 152d; 154th; 156th; 183d, 1st paragraph; 268th, 272d, Paragraph I of the Constitution of the Republic; 21st of the temporary dispositions of the Constitution, first, second, third, fifth, sixth, seventh, 32d, 144th, 146th, 149th, 163d, Paragraph I of the Law on Amparo, the Law on Habeas Corpus, and the Law on Constitutionality, and Paragraph 9 and 57 of the Judicial Branch Law.

Thus, based on all this and on the aforementioned laws, the Constitutional Court resolves:

1. The government and defense ministers are asked to give the necessary help so that the ruling issued by this court on 25 May 1993 be published in the official newspaper and that the ruling in question be complied with by the Executive Branch.

2. To this effect, a certified copy of the ruling and this document are being sent to the aforementioned ministers.

3. The Attorney General's Office must be notified about this.

Signed: Epaminondas Gonzalez, president; Adolfo Gonzalez Rodas, magistrate; Jorge Mario Garcia la Guardia, magistrate; Gabriel Mario Ochaita, magistrate; Carlos Enrique Reynoso, magistrate; Jose Antonio Rondon Juarez, magistrate; Rodolfo Hornos Cerda, magistrate; Pedro Pelaez, witness; and Marco Tulio Mejia Santacruz, witness.

Court Not To Propose Replacement

PA0206140993 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1338 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] The Constitutionality Court agreed during a meeting held on the night of 1 June not to propose candidates to replace Jorge Serrano Elias as president. The decision will be exclusively left up to the Congress of the Republic, the Constitutionality Court members who were consulted this morning said. For this reason, the Congress is expected to make a final decision on Serrano's replacement.

Serrano Led Out of Presidency Building by Soliders

PA0206024393 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0156 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Former Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano left the presidential palace surrounded by a group of soldiers and was jeered at by several bystanders, who criticized his actions. Serrano was being led by the arm by General Francisco Ortega Menaldo, chief of the Presidential General Staff, as he walked from the palace to the presidential house. When several onlookers and demonstrators recognized Serrano, they jeered at him. Then the former president suddenly pulled away from the soldier's grip and insulted the onlookers, furious, lashing out with expressions that were totally out of line. It was obvious that the former president was extremely furious.

Reportedly Still in Building

PA0206043193 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0400 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] We have heard reports there will be a meeting between the Constitutional Court, some politicians, and labor union representatives in a matter of minutes. We are waiting for that information.

We also report that a 72-hour deadline has been established to appoint the new president—this was stated by Constitutional Court President Epaminondas Gonzalez—to complete former President Jorge Serrano Elias' term.

The president, as we all know, resigned on the afternoon of 1 June, one week after ordering the suspension of guarantees and the dissolution of the legislative and judicial branches. The Presidency was temporarily assumed by Vice President Gustavo Espina Salguero, although he too has resigned out of solidarity with former President Serrano Elias.

Vice President Gustavo Espina Salguero tendered his resignation, but the Constitutional Court forced him by law to remain in his post for 72 hours until someone is appointed to replace former President Jorge Serrano Elias.

We have just learned President Serrano is still at the presidential house. Certain rumors claimed he had traveled abroad, but he is still at the presidential house, which is located behind the National Palace in Guatemala City.

Reportedly Confined to Residence

PA0206143093 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1327 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Deposed Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano, who was in power two years, four months, and 15 days, has been confined to the presidential residence after leaving the presidency under the surveillance of military units, we confirmed on the site.

Although there are no official reports on the whereabouts of the former president, a relative contacted him by cellular telephone and reported the president is doing well but is confined. The relative added Serrano's family is also doing well and no one is in danger.

Two (Pullman)-type buses were apparently waiting on the evening of 1 June outside the presidential residence—located on [number indistinct] Avenue between 4th and 5th Streets in Zone 1—for a very special passenger: reportedly Serrano himself. Two armored units of the Army were posted along an alley behind the presidential residence to offer security to the former president's transportation fleet.

Diverse and insistent rumors on Serrano's future have circulated since 0800 [as heard] [1400 GMT]. It was said he had traveled to Spain because that country granted him asylum. It was said he could not travel to Spain but was in that country's embassy. It was said he was in San Salvador. Finally, however, it was established he is in confinement.

On the evening of 1 June San Salvador Mayor Armando Calderon Sol, who is the presidential candidate for the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance, offered to welcome Serrano.

Serrano Denies Resignation, Says He Was 'Overthrown'

PA0206025393 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0212 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Jun (NOTIMEX)—Former Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias on 1 June said he was overthrown in a coup d'etat and added he had not resigned from office.

It was a coup d'etat, Serrano told 24 Hours newscast anchorman Jacobo Zabludovsky during a telephone conversation that was transmitted during a break in the scheduled program of the privately owned Mexican Televisa television station [Mexico City XEW Television Network].

Serrano talked with Zabludovsky at 1850 (0050 GMT) shortly after it was officially announced, in a news conference by Defense Minister Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa, that he had resigned.

URNG Says Serrano Resignation Not Enough

PA0106194193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1831 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Mexico City, 1 Jun (EFE)—The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) has said the simple resignation of President Jorge Serrano Elias does not guarantee a return to an institutional regimen in Guatemala.

Luis Becker, member of the Political-Diplomatic Commission of thte URNG, told EFE that the crisis being experienced by Guatemala is not a matter of a "change of people in government," but of the scarce civilian participation in society and the power of the Army.

He said that he is unaware if the high-ranking military officers pressured President Jorge Serrano Elias to resign and reiterated that the rebels have always rejected military coups in the country.

"Any formula that leaves the country's power in the hands of the military would be a step back for Guatemalan democracy, a country plagued by dictatorial coups," he said.

He said that Guatemalan society knows about the nefarious historic experience left behind by the country's military dictatorships even though these may get a "make-up" of an apparent democracy as in the case of the Serrano government.

Reacts 'Cautiously' To Resignation

PA0206144893 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1315 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Mexico City—The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] has reacted cautiously to President Jorge Serrano's resignation, and it hinted that the ruler yielded to pressure from the military. The rebel URNG had pulled out of the negotiations with the Guatemalan Government during the week of 23 May after Serrano took over special powers.

Following the official announcement by Defense Minister General Jose Garcia Samayoa to the effect that Serrano had resigned, the URNG issued a communique saying the president was unable to resist the pressure from the military leadership and from the political groups of the country.

Serrano staged a self-inflicted coup on 25 May and initially received support from the military high command. On 30 May, Garcia Samayoa hinted the Armed Forces were going to withdraw their support. At first, it was said that Garcia Samayoa might replace Serrano, but the general said Vice President Gustavo Espina will

occupy the post while Congress appoints a new president to complete the current presidential term.

In Washington, Guatemalan military sources said that the peaceful solution to the political crisis unleashed by Serrano would allow resuming the peace dialogue with the URNG that began in April 1991.

Meanwhile, a leader of the Guatemalan Christian Democracy said that the party will propose to Congress—which is planning to reconvene on 2 June—a general amnesty that might cover the guerrillas and thus facilitate reconciliation in Guatemala.

Search for Successor to Serrano Begins

Three Candidates To Be Named

PA0206042393 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0354 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] At this moment the Constitutional Court justices are meeting with leaders from Guatemala's many political parties and labor, university, business, and religious sectors. According to Justice Jorge Garcia La Guardia, the meeting will last between 45 and 50 minutes and it is the main part of the ongoing process following the resignation of Jorge Serrano Elias.

A last minute report indicates that the list of three possible candidates to replace Jorge Serrano will be revealed this evening. Their names will be proposed to Congress on 2 June, according to Garcia La Guardia.

Civilian President Demanded

PA0206002893 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 2318 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Report by Armando Perez from the presidential palace in Guatemala City]

[Text] Several trade union and popular organizations are demonstrating in front of the government building demanding that the authorities, who took over on 1 June after President Jorge Serrano's resignation, designate a civilian as president of the Republic. The demonstrators are headed by Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu, who said the new government would be a military government disguised as civilian.

Leaders Jorge Carpio Nicolle and Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo have said they agree with purging the Congress. They also said they will propose the resignations of all Congress members and that the Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE] will conduct the purge. This is Cabrera Hidalgo, secretary general of the Guatemalan Christian Democratic Party.

[Begin recording] [Cabrera Hidalgo, in progress] ...present the resignations of all deputies to the TSE so this tribunal purge and reduce the number of Congress members.

[Unidentified reporter] How many deputies would be removed?

[Cabrera Hidalgo] It will be decided by the TSE. They will decide on a sufficient number to prevent a power vacuum.

[Reporter] Who is your party's candidate for president?

[Cabrera Hidalgo] We do not have any. [end recording]

Carpio Nicolle, secretary general of the National Union Center, said the person to assume office as president should not be a politician and should meet certain requirements, such as great honesty and moral uprightness. At this time, several trade unions are demonstrating in front of the government building asking the authorities who took over to designate a civilian as president of the Republic.

'Intense' Negotiations Held

PA0106223593 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2116 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 Jun (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan soldiers, politicians, and justices on 1 June are holding intense negotiations to find a means of constitutionally replacing deposed President Jorge Serrano.

All radio and television stations are linked to a national network that is broadcasting music until an official announcement is made from the government palace regarding the manner in which the power vacuum left by Serrano will be filled.

Human Rights Ombudsman Ramiro de Leon, who like other national figures were summoned by the Army to the government palace for the official restoration of the lawful state, told ACAN-EFE that the Constitutionality Court justices and members of the Bar Association are considering legal methods through which to appoint a new president.

De Leon also said that the military have left the responsibility for the decision up to the civilians.

According to the Guatemalan Constitution, when Serrano resigns Vice President Gustavo Espina must assume his duties, but Espina is not acceptable because of his involvement in the self-inflicted coup. If he too resigns Congress must appoint a new head of state.

The problem is that opposition organizations, political as well as social, businessmen and labor unions have called for a "purging" of corrupt deputies who are involved with Serrano before Congress resumes its functions.

Thousands of Guatemalans who gathered at the entrance to the presidential palace on 1 June shouted "corrupt" and "to trial" to certain deputies who attempted to enter the palace and barred their entry.

Congress was dissolved during the self-inflicted coup on 25 May as were the Supreme and Constitutional Courts, although the courts refused to adhere to the president's decrees.

For the time being, the person who has publicly taken control of the country is Defense Minister General Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa.

According to Congress President Jose Lobo Dubon, the prevailing theory is that Garcia Samayoa should assume executive powers for two or three days while the procedure through which to choose a new president at Congress is clarified.

Civilian sectors headed by Rigoberta Menchu, however, do not want a military man in office for one single minute; they say the government must be the exclusive responsibility of civilian society.

Among other possibilities, the politicians and justices have considered turning the presidency over provisionally to Electoral Tribunal President Arturo Herbruger or to Constitutionality Court Chief Justice Epaminondas Gonzalez.

Papal Nuncio Begins Negotiations; Military Rift Reported

PA0206125993 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0609 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 Jun (NOTIMEX)—It has been learned in Guatemala City that Apostolic Nuncio Geovanny Morandini began here on the night of 1 June a process of negotiation with representatives of various governments of the world to prevent the perpetration of a military coup.

Sources close to President Jorge Serrano Elias said that the president stayed until 2330 (0530 GMT) in the presidential house where he spoke with 15 of 34 ambassadors who visited him. He reiterated to the ambassadors that he is not going to resign.

The diplomats told Serrano that even though they did not agree with the 25 May constitutional coup through which he dissolved the Legislative and Judicial Branches, they disapprove of a military coup.

On 1 June, eight days after the presidential decision, 59 deputies showed up at the presidential house to express their support to the president.

On 2 June, a national network will air a message in which Serrano asks the Guatemalan people not to support the military movement and in which he recognizes he made a mistake in dissolving the government branches.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that two military garrisons of the capital support Serrano Elias and that there is no consensus to remove him from the presidential house where is staying with his wife, Magda Bianchi, and his children: Jorge Adan, Arturo Fridolino, Juan Pablo, Magda Maria, and Amelie.

He is also accompanied by Supreme Court Justice Maria Luisa Beltranena de Padilla and Government Minister Francisco Perdomo Sandoval.

On the night of 1 June, Serrano Elias received calls from Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani, and Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro. He had dinner with Honduran Ambassador to Guatemala Roberto Matamoros and Salvadoran Minister-Counsellor Mario Gonzalez.

Sources close to Serrano Elias said that it is evident there is division in the military ranks in view that some commanders are demanding to see the letter of resignation from the president, a letter that he has yet to sign. Betty de Lobo, his private secretary, confirmed to NOTIMEX.

National Vanguard Party Members Review Situation

PA0206021093 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0043 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Report by Carlos Arcila in Guatemala City—live]

[Text] [Arcila] We have National Vanguard Party [PAN] Deputies Anabella Castro de Companini and Carlos Valle with us. We are pleased to greet you. First of all, Anabella, what can you tell us about the latest events, which are being covered by Cadena de Emisoras Unidas?

[Companini] The most important thing is the reinstatement of constitutional order. We must think as Guatemalans. We cannot afford the luxury of disrupting constitutional order ever again because the essential thing is the existence of our institutions and our belief in them, although we sometimes do not like the people who comprise them. We believe this step has been taken. It is evident that we will restore constitutional order and these situations will not occur in the future, because the people have demanded it.

The second thing is something we want to tell the people. Our position as a party is to demand a purge of the Congress of the Republic and the Supreme Court of Justice. We believe this is truly essential to restore the Guatemalan people's trust. Reinstatement of constitutional order must be clear, but a purge must also be carried out among the people who have been accomplices of this situation.

[Arcila] We also have statements by Carlos Valle.

[Valle] Dr. Anabella Castro de Companini aptly said we remain alert to any developments but we are pleased, in principle, because the law has prevailed. No one is above the law and we have always defended the legality of the Legislative Branch's actions.

A historical precedent has been established for Guatemala in this case. Not even the president can be above the Constitution of the Republic. We support the current process and we want to tell the Guatemalan people our decision to participate in the legislative branch will be determined by the type of reorganization and purge that will be carried out in the organization.

We have waged an internal battle for two and one-half years against unlawfulness and acts of corruption that have been carried out in the past. The people can certify this. We believe this historical moment must serve to carry out in-depth changes in Congress and the Supreme Court of Justice, so Guatemala may come out well ahead.

The PAN Executive Committee's decision to participate in Congress will be determined by the pledge to carry out a purge within these organizations. We do not think we should endorse it with our presence if no in-depth structural changes are carried out.

[Arcila] We reported early on 1 June that the deputies had been summoned. Is this true? Did you attend the meeting?

[Companini] Look, the president of the Republic issued the summons. Even though it sounds funny, he dissolved the Congress and then he sought its support—of course, we mean people who are close to him. They also wanted the PAN to go to the Congress of the Republic. We said we would not endorse a puppet Congress, because Jorge Serrano Elias, the former president of the Republic, wanted the deputies to go and give him a pardon. In other words, he wanted to be free of any legal action; but he must face that.

Second, he wanted the Congress to go and do everything he asked. He was going to pay members of Congress for a three-month recess. We are obviously talking about a puppet Congress. We do not endorse this type of situation. We did not go and we reported this. I believe only the Solidarity Action Movement deputies, some Union of the National Center dissidents, one Guatemalan Republican Front member, and some Guatemalan Christian Democracy deputies attended.

[Arcila] You were not there?

[Valle] No, nor will we be there as long as the rules of the game remain unclear. We advocate structural changes within the Congress, meaning a purge of the people who have comprised the Congress. We have waged a fierce battle against them and we have opposed them because Guatemala deserves a Congress with dignified representatives of the nation. They must protect the nation's interests rather than their personal interests. We will adopt a decision to return as soon as we receive the guarantees the Congress will be reorganized; that the persons who comprise it will submit their resignations, meaning those who should submit their resignations; and that the Congress is prepared to really work with [words indistinct] Guatemalan people. Otherwise, we will continue to oppose any reinstatement of Congress under the same conditions.

[Arcila] Thank you.

Bomb Explodes in Guatemala City Mall

PA0106162593 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1554 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 Jun (NOTIMEX)—A medium-intensity bomb exploded on 1 June at mall where several radio stations have their offices in Zone 4 of central Guatemala City, volunteer firemen confirmed. The firemen stated that no one was injured in the attack, although property damage was extensive.

The Corporacion Nacional, owner of a large number of radio stations and the Radio Emisoras Unidas network, has its offices in this mall.

On 31 May, unidentified individuals fired on the offices of the Mexican Televisa network and ECO [Global Communication Enterprise News Agency]. The attacks are taking place in the midst of the Guatemalan political crisis resulting from the "institutional self-inflicted coup" ordered by Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias on 25 May.

Bomb Explodes Outside Costa Rican Consulate

PA0106180893 Paris AFP in Spanish 1701 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 1 Jun (AFP)—Fire Department representatives at the site, reported that a second bomb has exploded in the Guatemalan capital, causing property damage to a shopping mall.

No victims were reported.

The bomb went off outside "Gutierrez Machado" Advertising Agency at the Galerias Reforma shopping mall. The Costa Rican consulate is located in this same building.

A first moderate-strength bomb exploded a while before at a mall in Zone 4, also in central Guatemala City. No victims were reported then, but there was property damage.

According to the Fire Department, the two bombs are similar and were apparently detonated by a timing device.

The owner of "Gutierrez Machado" Advertising is a partner in the opposition CRONICA magazine, whose offices are locate at the Zone 4 shopping mall.

Meanwhile, it was also reported that emergency services have received at least 10 terrorist attack threats.

Correction to Decree on Temporary Measures

PA2605160693

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Serrano Issues Decree on Temporary Measures" published in the 26 May Latin America Daily Report on pages 25 to 27:

Page 27, column one, second complete paragraph, only sentence, make read: ...respective judicial authority within a period of.... (correcting word)

Honduras

Colonel Charged With Student Murder Blames U.S. Embassy

PA2905021293 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 25 May 93 p 9

[Text] "The U.S. Embassy has places for its get-togethers, which in most cases leave much to be desired," said Colonel Angel Castillo Maradiaga, who is confined to the Central Penitentiary (PC) as a suspect in the death of high school student Riccy Mabel Martinez Sevilla.

He claimed U.S. Ambassador Crescencio Arcos is directly involved in the case because of the "relationship that exists between the information and the participation of people from that diplomatic mission." "They come here to do strange things and then try to cover themselves by blaming others," according to the former commander of the 1st Communications Battalion when referring to the Americans. The defendant publicly asked for protection from the government and from the Supreme Court president to prevent these cases from happening. "It remains to be seen what is behind all this," he said.

Castillo Maradiaga made these explosive statements after denying, in the presence of Prosecutor Linda Lizzie Rivera, that he was behind an alleged plan to kill her, for which 50,000 lempiras would be paid.

The colonel said he trusts the Honduran justice system, and especially divine justice. "I hope God will help discover those responsible for this horrible crime," he said in reference to the Riccy case. He said Sergeant Santos Eusebio Llovares Funez is the person who knows the truth about the crime. "He gave Riccy a ride and knows where he took her. He may not have done anything to her, but he knows what happened to her," he said.

He asked the national media to visit the Army's General Staff to review his record. "They will be able to learn about my conduct. I have been a very upright officer, perhaps one of the few that exist inside the Armed Forces," he said. "The time they have kept me locked up and the damage they have caused have been enough. I hope no other person has to suffer what I have endured," he said.

Asked about who the guilty person is, he replied: "We still have Llovares Funez, who can clear everything up." He noted he found Riccy in the vicinity of the unit he commands, exactly on 13 July 1991. "I feel uncomfortable. It is sad to see how an innocent person with a clean record is being involved," he said.

Castillo Maradiaga admitted having the support of the Armed Forces, his relatives, friends, and other persons, who have visited him in the area of "La Mora," inside the PC. He does not rule out the possibility of returning to the Army and may even request his retirement the following day. "We must make room for the other officers and this should serve as an experience because all that glitters is not gold," he said.

He said that at the beginning he thought his situation would clear up, however, he admits his situation is still in the dark because the real culprits have not shown up.

As for the report issued by the FBI that the pubic hair found in Riccy Mabel's panties were similar to his, he said similar does not mean the same."

Col. Angel Castillo Maradiaga blames the U.S. Embassy for anything that may happen to him in the future.

Callejas, Labor Representatives Hold News Conference

PA2905174893 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1420 GMT 27 May 93

[News conference by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas, Labor and Social Welfare Minister Carlos Torres Lopez, and representatives of the National Association of Public Honduran Employees, with local and foreign reporters in the Presidential Palace Press Room in Tegucigalpa—live]

[Excerpts] [Callejas] This morning we have three major developments to report. First, I want to announce that on the night of 27 May the National Electoral Tribunal [TNE] will call the general elections scheduled for 28 November to elect the president, presidential designates, congressional deputies, deputies to the Central American Parliament, and mayors. Within that context, as president I am extremely pleased that we are again entering a democratic institutional process that will serve to consolidate the country's political republican system. For some time different groups have speculated irresponsibly that this would not come about. I am extremely pleased to announce to the people that we will begin the electoral campaign on 28 May.

Second, I have been pleased to learn from members of the business and labor sectors and the Labor Minister that a pact was reached on the minimum wage. Today we will sign that pact.

Third, I received today the resignation of all government officials who will participate in the elections. I will be signing the documents naming their replacements. In

this respect, I invite the labor and business sectors, and the Labor Ministry, to accompany me to the ceremony to sign this pact on minimum wage increases. Again, I want to express my recognition of the business and labor sectors. Reaching this kind of pact is difficult, but as we carry out our plans, based on common interests, and as we continue to seek the majority's interest, the country will find itself on a much stronger path.

The percentage increase in the minimum wage is important because it is higher than the price index during the same period. For that reason, it has a direct and specific benefit. Let us recall that today the minimum wage increase does not include only aspects related to the family basket. The Central Bank price index, which serves as a gauge, includes 200 products, education, housing, and health. This was included in the original pact reached at the start of my administration, when I sought a consensus on the minimum wage that would not consider the cost of living increase in terms of food only but would include education, housing, transportation, and health. Although we are far from reaching our goal to make the salary cover the peoples' general needs, we are headed in the right direction.

I feel very satisfied and congratulate the different sectors for reaching an understanding without intervention by the Executive Branch, which under law is charged with establishing the minimum wage. The less the government participates in the determination of wage increases to improve incomes, the better it will be for all Hondurans. I applaud the goodwill of the different sectors. I agree that in this sort of pact no side gets everything it wanted, but that is not important. What matters is the commitment the sides have made and the view that together we can meet the problems of those sectors involved. I give very special applause to the labor and business sectors. I thank you for again giving me the opportunity to sign a pact that stems from the direct commitment of the sides involved. [applause as Callejas signs pact] We will now proceed to report the replacement of the following government officials:

Ricardo Maduro, from the Central Bank, who tendered his resignation, will be replaced by Roberto Galvez Barnet. We have appointed Francisco Rodriguez as advisory minister in the field of energy. We have appointed Orlando Avilez as deputy natural resources minister to replace [name indistinct], who has been appointed to an international position at [words indistinct]. Wilfredo Cerrato, executive director of the Social Housing Fund, will be replaced by Jose Francisco Paredes. As of 1 June, we will appoint as Deputy Education Minister Constantino Rivera to replace Alba Rivera de Sanchez. David Mendoza, president of the National Investment Corporation, will be replaced by Roque Pascua. To replace Mauro Membreno, the Ministry of Public Works and Transportation will be temporarily headed by the president of the Republic.

We will now sign the agreements, then we will swear in the officials. We will then answer the reporters' questions.

[Reporter Francisco Valeriano Giron] Mr. President: We would like to know, what percentage was the minimum salary raised? Are the labor and business sectors satisfied with this agreement? According to the talks held, what is the percentage increase to the minimum wage? Initially there was talk of a 13 to 14 percent increase.

[Callejas] I am going to give the labor minister the floor but I would like for a representative from the labor sector and one from the business sector to accompany me so that they can answer these questions. They are the ones who reached an agreement. The information I have is that the increase to the minimum wage is 14.2 percent. I will now proceed to give the floor to the labor minister, followed by the representative of the labor and of the business sectors.

[Torres] The increase to the minimum wage is 14.2 percent. On the different levels, the nation was divided into three [word indistinct] geographic areas with regard to the number of workers. The minimum percent of the increase on some levels is 8 percent, and the maximum is 15 percent. But in general, we reiterate, the increase to the minimum wage is 14.2 percent.

[Labor leader Leonel Ambur] The labor sector and the business sector, for the third time, reached a consensus on the minimum wage. We know and we understand that perhaps everyone will not be pleased because the family basket has skyrocketed, as the president said. But we believe that 14.2 percent is a good increase to the minimum wage. At the beginning we were discussing other percentages but we believe that what was negotiated was perhaps not fair, but we reached an agreement and we believe that to some extent it will benefit the working class.

In the name of the working sector, we urgently ask the president, and we have reiterated to the businessmen, to try to stabilize family basket prices. Under what concept can this be achieved? Under the concept of not raising the prices of basic products. We have reached this agreement with our business sector comrades. Every six months the commission will meet to follow up on this issue to insure that the minimum salary that has been agreed on is implemented on the three levels. It would be useless to negotiate an increase then have the business sector not apply it. We have reached an accord with businessmen that we are going to follow up on that. The company that fails to pay the minimum wage will be sanctioned by the commission.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. President, [words indistinct] situation in Guatemala, despite what you have said. Relations between your administration and Jorge Serrano have definitely been excellent since the beginning of Serrano's administration. On 27 May the Honduran Congress condemned what has happened in Guatemala, the blocking of broadcasts in the country, the dissolution of Congress, and the separation from office of important officials in the Serrano administration. Mr. President, are you not afraid the Honduran Congress' decision to

condemn Serrano's conduct may hinder relations between Honduras and Guatemala?

[Callejas] The state branches are independent and sovereign in Honduras. Foreign policy is handled by the Executive Branch by constitutional mandate and that is how it is being done. We sincerely deplore the events that have occurred in Guatemala. The position adopted by Central American countries is that we would rather see constitutional order restored as soon as possible. We believe that actions like this one are deplorable, of course, and they have highly negative effects for the institutional, democratic, and political processes in Central America. We respect the positions assumed by the National Congress and the Supreme Court of Justice; and we sincerely deplore, as a government, the events that occurred in the friendly Republic of Guatemala. This is undeniably an essential issue for the Central American foreign ministers' summit that will be held on 27 May in Kingston, Jamaica. The issue will also be discussed during the 6 June general assembly meeting in Nicaragua.

[Reporter] We want to talk some more about your government's position regarding events in Guatemala. Approximately 30 minutes ago, some Liberal Party leaders referred to the Honduran Government's position on what has occurred in Guatemala. They said the position was one of friendship, convenience, indifference—even timidness—rather than one of rejection and condemnation. What is your answer?

[Callejas] The Honduran Government's position coincides with that of other Latin American and Central American countries. We seriously deplore what has occurred in Guatemala and we have requested a return to constitutional order. These are two basic principles of the conduct we have established in Latin America, based on the Santiago de Chile Agreement. We act with strength within the framework of the principles established by international laws. We recognize that each country is sovereign. We cannot intervene in other countries' internal affairs. All we can do is state our disagreement with what has occurred in Guatemala and support the basic principle concerning return to the status quo of constitutional order. This is undeniably a position that concurs with the philosophy on the American Continent and our philosophy.

[Reporter] Do you condemn the events in Guatemala?

[Callejas] We deplore the events in Guatemala. That is the position adopted by the Central American countries. Four Central American countries agreed to establish a consensus regarding our policy toward Guatemala. That is the document we issued and the position we assumed because we, and other countries in Latin America, are quite concerned about events in Guatemala. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] [words indistinct] endorsed by the presidents of the countries of the region has a point for the establishment of a peace and democracy. Setting off from that fact, will the rest of the governments of the area, and particularly your government, continue to contact the Guatemalan Government, which is now illegitimate, to promote the regional integration process? What will be your government's position be toward Guatemala?

[Callejas] The Central American countries have established a policy with regard to the events that have taken place in Guatemala. We regret the fact but, at the same time, we are neighboring countries and will make our best effort in the political field for the reestablishment of Guatemala's institutional order. This does not mean that the movement of persons and goods through our Central American countries will be stopped. That fact that there has been a disruption of constitutional order in Guatemala, which is regrettable, does not mean we will close our borders, nor will they close theirs, to commerce and the movement of persons. These activities will continue.

We are indeed aware that, in the political framework of our integration, this is a setback because we cannot continue to analyze the political aspects of the Central American integration process if there is no established democratic basis. We cannot traverse the path of political integration with unconstitutional and illegitimate governments.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] with the departure of Ricardo Maduro, president of the economic cabinet, will the so-called blows [trancazos] end against the Honduran people?

[Callejas] The monetary policy programs, which have created over 200,000 jobs during this government, according to data from the International Labor Organization, will continue. We believe that going back to the past would be a serious mistake. We believe that social programs must be based on free market, free supply and demand, in which the state regulates and dictates norms but does not participate actively. The Republic's monetary, fiscal, and economic policies will continue.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] what is your message to the people who are going to participate in these next elections? And on what do you base your statements about Osvaldo Ramos Soto being the best candidate and the best prepared to guide the country?

[Callejas] I ask the Honduran people to go to the voting tables and I take this opportunity to ask them to vote for lawyer Jose Osvaldo Ramos Soto.

[Reporter] What attitude should the Central American Parliament [Parlacen] assume? Should it stay in Guatemala or should it leave those headquarters?

[Callejas] The Parlacen sessions have already been transferred to El Salvador.

[Reporter] Mr. President, I would like to hear your comments regarding the GATT ruling against the quota system the EEC tried to establish.

[Callejas] This is the first stage. We must not be optimistic with regard to the GATT resolutions. Other petitions are being processed. We have to first await the results of those other petitions. Logically, we are satisfied with the news and it motivates us to continue struggling jointly to prevent the EEC economic injustice with regard to bananas.

This is undeniably an important topic for us banana producing countries. In that frame of mind, we will continue our joint efforts so that the second institutional petition at the GATT may favor the Latin American countries and so that it yields favorable results to avoid the discrimination that is taking place. We will wait to learn about the EEC position with regard to the GATT resolution on 1 July.

We are happy, but not yet optimistic with regard to the final result of this process. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

UNO, Cosep Pull Out of National Dialogue

PA2905003093 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 May 93 pp 1, 18

[Report by Ariel Montoya]

[Text] The National Opposition Union (UNO) declined participation in the national dialogue. They also rejected a request made by President Violeta Chamorro for the UNO to appoint three representatives to meet with the government delegation and work in the search for agreement.

This retreat from what has been called the "political table," in addition to the same move made later by the Higher Council of Private Enterprise [Cosep], has put the dialogue into crisis.

The two sectors that are now absent from the table gave President Chamorro her election victory in 1990.

UNO Deputy Zacarias Hernandez, who is a member of the opposition coalition commission to the talks, said that the dialogue "has become diluted."

In a letter to President Chamorro, the UNO reminds her of the contents of a letter sent on 1 April "substantiating our reasons for considering you the best intermediary in any dialogue between the government and the UNO." The letter is signed by Arnoldo Aleman, the mayor of Managua and the coordinator of the UNO National Political Council.

During the last meeting between the government and the UNO, held on 20 May, President Chamorro bowed out of appearing in person, claiming schedule problems.

One of the paragraphs in the letter says: "We are concerned about the deterioration of the agreement reached on 3 May, given the insistent pressure for us to join in multisectoral discussions that you have called a National Dialogue."

Political analyst Emilio Alvarez recently criticized President Chamorro for "delegating her powers to her son-in-law, who has no responsibility, as his appointment did not come from an election." He added that Chamorro is handling the dialogue "like a ceremonial game."

The letter signed by Aleman also reveals that an "Objectives Commission" was created during a meeting on 20 May. The commission put together a document titled "Basis for Dialogue, Agreement Between the Government and the UNO," which was signed by the two parties.

The commission defined five basic points which state that the government and the UNO recognize the importance of a bilateral dialogue and the need for prior agreements.

These basic points set forth by the commission are as follows:

1. To reach agreements to promote political stability in the country.
2. To promote the development and progress of the Nicaragua society.
3. To create bilateral agreement to promote national and international credibility.
4. To forge reconciliation.
5. To overcome the overall crisis by "promoting an appropriate atmosphere that will strengthen economic and social reconstruction of the country."

Following the retreat by the opposition coalition and former ally of President Chamorro, the Cosep also pulled out of the National Dialogue, claiming that the government must reach agreements with those who brought her to power, before meeting with the other sectors.

Chamorro Issues 'Reminder' to Critical UNO Members

PA3105042193 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 27 May 93 p 5

[By Maria Alicia Talavera]

[Text] Boaco—After turning over 109,500 cordobas to this city to finance 54 small businesses, President Violeta Chamorro brought up a "little reminder" on 26 May for several leaders of the National Opposition Union who were advisers in several institutions during the Sandinist government.

It is not a case of airing their dirty laundry, the president said while she taking a long list out of her pocket with the names of several politicians in the coalition that brought her to power in 1990. The list was long, but she chose not to read it all.

Before disclosing the names, Chamorro said it is sad that UNO and the Higher Council of Private Enterprise did not sit down to discuss the state's modernization, "because this dialogue is for Nicaragua, and I believe all

Nicaraguans should now sit down at the negotiating table to help rid the country of its problems."

The president surprised reporters when she said UNO was a united group of 14 political parties when it won the elections, but now it is a divided group characterized by infighting. "Now it is something else," she said.

"I am not UNO; I represent the Nicaraguan people," she said firmly, explaining that she accepted the presidential nomination with the certainty that she would win and unite the people through a campaign of reconciliation and pardon in Nicaragua, setting "an example for the world."

Chamorro's remarks were a response to recent statements by UNO coordinator Arnoldo Aleman, who told a local television station that the government ministers are Sandinists. The president has had several run-ins with the Managua mayor in past weeks.

"I want to give them a little reminder, not to air their dirty laundry, but so that they can see..." Chamorro stated.

The list read by Chamorro included Mario Montenegro, who is close to Arnoldo Aleman, is president of the Chamber of Construction, and was contractor for the National Construction Department 10 years ago; Jaime Bonilla (PLI) [Independent Liberal Party], who worked for former minister Jaime Wheelock in Region IV; Wilfredo Navarro, (PLI) who worked on a Sandinist People's Army farm; Victor Manuel Talavera, (PLC) [Liberal Constitutionalist Party], adviser to Commander Tomas Borge; and Julio Centeno Gomez (PLC), adviser to deceased Commander Carlos Nunez.

As for Alfredo Cesar, Chamorro said "he has a very long tail." He was secretary of the government junta when Chamorro was part of it and abandoned the government after Chamorro did so. She recalled that when the Bank of America building was confiscated, she had told Cesar: "It is not like you to take away even the tables."

Chamorro's list continued with Conservative Francisco Anzoategui, who was adviser of Federico Lopez in Region IV; Cairo Manuel Lopez, adviser of the Government Junta of National Reconstruction and director of a prison in Leon on 19 July 1979, where the president arrived from Costa Rica as a member of the government junta.

Her list continued with Adolfo Garcia Esquivel, former adviser of the Heroes and Martyrs National Confederation of Professional Associations; Augusto Calderon, former manager of the Plastinic company; Yamileth Bonilla and Julio Morales (both of the Managua Municipal Council) former advisers to Commander Jaime Wheelock.

I am saying this "so they will not say that my government is Sandinist. If they worked with the Sandinists for the good of the country, good for them. Now we are in a phase of reconciliation and nothing more. I say this so that the people will understand because they (UNO) say my government is good for nothing."

Poll Show FSLN as Strongest Political Force in Country

PA3005164193 Managua Canal Cuatro Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] We now announce the results of the public opinion poll conducted by the CID [Multispecialty Development Counselors]- Gallup firm among 1,200 Nicaraguans living in Managua and the country's main cities.

As we reported on 21 May, the poll shows that the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] continues to be the strongest political force in Nicaragua. With 29 percent in its favor, the FSLN maintains the same level of support it maintained in October 1989, prior to the elections.

The Sandinist membership evaluates its leaders in the following way: Former President Daniel Ortega received 89.7 percent; General Humberto Ortega: 82 percent; Former Vice President Sergio Ramirez: 77.6 percent; Deputy Dora Maria Tellez: 72 percent; Commander Tomas Borge Martinez: 61.1 percent; and Daniel Nunez, National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen leader: 47.9 percent

A large percentage of Nicaraguans continue to think that Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo is the one who is in charge of the Nicaraguan Government. When those polled were asked who they thought is the best deputy, they showed little knowledge of the names of deputies. Sergio Ramirez, leader of the FSLN legislative bloc, was among the few they mentioned. He received 8.2 percent; [Former Assembly President Alfredo] Cesar received 1.9 percent; and current National Assembly President Gustavo Tablada received 1 percent. Eighty-two percent of those polled admitted they do not know the names of the National Assembly members.

Regarding the nation's main problems, 48 percent of those polled said unemployment is the number one problem of the Nicaraguans. This is followed by 14 percent who said it was thefts, crimes, and violence; 11 percent said it was the cost of living; and 11 percent said it was bad administration and government corruption.

Those polled said there was more employment, better medical attention, more opportunities to study, and more economic stability during the Sandinist administration, although they acknowledged that there is more food and recreational opportunities now.

Public Polled on Government Economic Plan

PA3005185293 Managua Canal Cuatro Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 26 May 93

[Text] We have results of the CID [Multispecialty Development Counselors]-Gallup poll, exclusive for the

"Extravision" newscast. This poll was conducted among 1,200 Nicaraguans interviewed in Managua and the country's largest cities. We are going to talk about the socioeconomic aspects of the survey.

As for the government's economic measures, only 3.8 percent of those interviewed said they agree or are pleased with the plan. When questioned, 3.8 percent said the plan was successful, 17.1 percent said the plan has had some success, 26.1 percent said the plan has had little success, and 46.3 percent said the plan has not had any success.

In addition, seven out of every ten persons believe the economic situation of their family is worse off than last year. When asked about the economic situation of their family compared to the previous year, 69 percent said they are worse off, 22 percent said they are doing the same, and only 7 percent said they are better off. When asked if they thought the number of Nicaraguans living in poverty was increasing or decreasing each year, 90 percent of those surveyed said the number is increasing, 5 percent said it is decreasing, and 4 percent said it has remained the same.

As for the national dialogue, only one out of every ten Nicaraguans knows about the national dialogue between the Violeta Chamorro government and the opposition. The rest, 90 percent, knows very little or knows nothing about this effort to find solutions to the country's problems.

As for the disarmament of civilians, 90 percent said they agreed the Nicaraguan Army should disarm the civilians, who are still carrying weapons. Only 9 percent disagree or said they know nothing about this issue.

Panama

Legslative Assembly Issues Resolution on Guatemala

PA2805174593 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 May 93 p 20b

["Text" of Legislative Assembly Resolution No. 23 issued in Panama City on 25 May]

[Text] The Legislative Assembly, exercising its constitutional and legal authority,

Whereas:
Today, 25 May 1993, Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano Elias has proclaimed a self-inflicted coup d'etat by dissolving the Supreme Court of Justice, the Constitutional Court, the Congress of the Republic; separating the attorney general, and the human rights ombudsman from their posts; and suspending constitutional and individual rights of the Guatemalan people;

This action carried out by President Jorge Serrano Elias, using the force of the Army to impose a dictatorial government, broke the constitutional order in the Republic of Guatemala and occurred precisely when various sectors of Guatemalan society were demanding the Guatemalan president be tried for violating the Constitution, corruption, and when the Office of the Ombudsman for Human Rights was conducting several investigations on violations of human rights by his government.

Resolves:
1. To reject emphatically the self-inflicted coup carried out by President Jorge Serrano Elias, which constitutes a nefarious example for democracy in his country and the entire Central American region.

2. To demand the immediate release of detained congressmen, as well as any other government officials or private citizens deprived of liberty in their houses or jails in the Republic of Guatemala as a result of this act against democracy.

3. To urge the international community and the Government of the Republic of Panama to disavow the new de facto government emerging from the self-inflicted coup through effective actions and statements.

4. To demand the Central American Parliament (Parlacen), with headquarters in Guatemala City, to abstain from holding sessions in this city until constitutional order is restored in that Central American country, and to seek a provisional site in another democratic capital in Central America.

To be promulgated and published.

Issued in Panama City on 25 May 1993.
[Signed] Roberto Garibaldo S., acting president Mario M. Lasso B., acting secretary general

Noriega Requests Extradition To Appear in Spadafora Trial

PA2805234593 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 28 May 93 p 1a

[Report by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] Deposed General Manuel Antonio Noriega sent a letter to Magistrate Luis Mario Carrasco asking to be extradited to Panama so he can appear during the Hugo Spadafora murder trial scheduled for 6 July. Magistrate Carrasco has been appointed as the judge for the Spadafora trial.

Jose Ramiro Fonseca, Noriega's defense attorney, disclosed the request and explained that the document was sent through diplomatic channels.

Former General Noriega, in addition to demanding to be present during the trial, declared his innocence of the murder charges and stated that his absence would be a detriment to due process.

Noriega told EL PANAMA AMERICA on 17 May that the trial against him was "political" and contended that he had many things to say before the Chiriqui Higher Court.

Attorney Ramiro Fonseca also told this newspaper that there is a possibility that the Spadafora trial will be postponed since the victim's relatives filed the murder charges only 15 days ago. Noriega and the other nine accused must now be informed of those charges.

According to Noriega's defense attorney, the Spadafora family filed four specific murder accusations, which is an error because the law only allows one plaintiff for each victim of an offense.

Also charged in the Spadafora case are Luis Cordoba, Demetrio Rodriguez, Francisco Gonzalez Bonilla, Mario Del Cid, Eliecer Rivera, Jorge Villa, Julio Cesar Miranda, Adan Pitti, and Agustin de Gracia.

Special District Attorney Carlos Augusto Herrera will represent the Attorney General's Office. He will be supported by District Attorneys Emilio De Leon and Rolando Rodriguez.

Private prosecutors include lawyers Arnulfo Escalona, Alvin Weeden, Tomas Herrera and Jose Manuel Faundes. In addition, 15 other lawyers will defend the nine accused parties.

Transportation Strike Paralyzes Countryside

PA0106015593 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1730 GMT 31 May 93

[Report by Mara Rivera]

[Excerpts] Several RPC Television teams traveled to the outskirts of Panama City on 31 May and confirmed that many citizens have been affected by the transportation strike. Most bus terminals were empty. The situation was critical in Pedregal, where hundreds of Panamanians tried unsuccessfully to reach their workplaces, a virtually impossible task. We saw several private vehicles offering transportation to some people. [passage omitted]

The Juan Diaz area did not escape the strike. Everyone did his best to find transportation, and some companies even hired special buses to pick up their employees. We noticed cooperation within the communities as many citizens formed carpools. Any means of transportation was good enough.

The same situation prevailed in Veranillo, Cerro Batea, and Santa Librada. Many neighborhoods were affected, and citizens everywhere voiced their displeasure. [passage omitted]

Downtown bus terminals, including Colon and La Chorrera, were completely empty. A few people were waiting for buses at La Chorrera terminal. The same was true at bus terminals throughout the countryside, including Las Tablas, Chiriqui, and Chitre. Citizens were looking for any available mode of transportation.

No public transportation vehicles were on the streets, which affected many citizens as well as the national economy. Buses were seen blocking traffic in western Panama City on the road to Arraijan and La Chorrera. Traffic was blocked at the highway, the Loma Cova area, and at the entrance to La Chorrera. [passage omitted]

Those area were reopened to vehicular traffic for two hours after an agreement was reached on an interview segment of the "The Awakening Television Newscast." [passage omitted]

President Guillermo Endara affirmed that the law will be enforced during the strike.

[Begin recording] [Endara] This transportation law is the first to take users into consideration. The law cannot focus exclusively on the government and the drivers, as was the case in the past. It must also take the passengers into account, and that is why this law is good. It takes the citizen's rights into account.

[Unidentified reporter] What measures will the government adopt?

[Endara] The measures specified by law; only those specified by the law. [end recording]

This is an indefinite strike. It was announced, however, that there will be a dialogue at the Presidency.

Government Grants 40 Operator Permits

PA0106163093 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 1 Jun 93 p 1a

[Report by Ibeth Vega C. and Elio Rujano]

[Excerpts] On 31 May, the government granted approximately 40 operator permits to private individuals interested in giving transportation services to the people affected by a nationwide strike that is to last indefinitely. Ninety percent of the transportation sector came to a standstill and police ordered the arrest of anyone blocking free circulation. The strike continued for a second consecutive day on 1 June to protest the approval of Law No. 14 regulating passenger transportation, a law that puts an end to the oligopoly existing in that sector. During the first few hours of the strike, characterized by the closing of roads, President Guillermo Endara specifically ordered the National Police to arrest any individual who tried to obstruct free circulation. [passage omitted]

Right after the strike began, the government started to enforce the recently approved law granting approximately 40 operator permits to unemployed people to give transportation services for 30 days with their vehicles. These permits could be changed to permanent ones. The government is also using official vehicles to transport all those affected by the strike, free of charge.

In the afternoon, there were various reports about a possible dialogue between the National Transportation Coordinating Board [Coordinadora Nacional del Transporter] and the government. However, the Endara administration remained firm in its position to enforce the law, but it offered the transportation sector the opportunity to participate in the regulation of this law if the strike is suspended. The strikers decided to continue the strike to the bitter end. At a news conference held late in the afternoon on 31 May, the Coordinating Board warned that it will not lift the strike under any circumstances. In view of this, Government Minister Juan Chevalier cautioned that the law will not be changed "regardless of the strike." [passage omitted]

PRD Backs Electoral Tribunal Ruling on Panama City Mayor

PA2905152093 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 28 May 93 p a1

[Report by Esperanza Navarro Francois]

[Text] The Revolutionary Democratic Party (PRD) said "it sees with satisfaction that, despite all the intimidation the electoral prosecutor was subjected to, the Electoral Tribunal did its duty by separating Mayor Omayra Correa from office."

In a communique to the country signed by PRD Secretary General Ernesto Perez Balladares, the opposition party expressed its support for the Electoral Tribunal's decision because such decisions contribute toward creating confidence in Panamanian justice and toward the possibility of holding a clean election.

In a four-page ruling, the three Electoral Tribunal magistrates decided to separate Panama District Mayor Correa for allegedly using state resources to register the Popular Alliance Party (AP) and attempting to pressure the Electoral Prosecutor's Office.

Magistrates Eduardo Valdes, Guillermo Marquez, and Dennis Allen stated in their ruling that there was sufficient proof included in the accusation "to support the charges made by the Electoral Infraction Commission [Comision de Delitos Electorales]."

According to the Electoral Code, the decision is open only to a reconsideration measure filed before the same magistrates. A constitutional guarantee for civil rights protection motion [amparo de garantias] cannot be filed.

Article 137 of the Political Constitution states that Electoral Tribunal rulings are definite, final, and binding.

The PRD encouraged the Electoral Tribunal to continue conducting itself with complete independence from any type of pressure or intimidation, and thus guarantee that the 1994 elections will be a honest and impartial civic contest.

Argentina

Menem Answers Corruption Charges Made by Radical Party

PY3105134493 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 30 May 93 p 4

[Text] (NA-DYN)—Carlos Menem publicly balked at the document released Friday [28 May] by the Radical National Committee, which linked high government officials to international drug trafficking, describing it as "a shower of insults" against his administration.

Menem said the Radical leaders who had drafted that document would have to explain the meaning of their accusations in court.

"(Such accusations) do nothing to prop up the country's democratic life," said the President, demanding yesterday that the Radical Party identify those who they say are guilty of corruption and drug-related crimes.

The statements were Menem's first public reaction to the Radical document, which asked for the immediate removal from office of people suspected of having exerted pressure on judges or other officials in connection with the Yomagate drug money-laundering investigation.

While Menem kept quiet on Friday, his Cabinet immediately spoke out against the main opposition leaders to ratify or rectify their statements or else face charges in court of insult and slander.

The exchange of accusations came amid the mounting controversy over Federal Judge Maria Servini de Cubria's role in the notorious Yomagate investigation.

Servini, who was removed from the case two years ago after being fined a token 60 pesos for irregularities in the probe, last week accused ex-Justice minister Leon Arslanian of having attempted to bribe her at the time to shelve the investigation.

The Yomagate case seriously implicated former government officials, such as ex-Drinking Water Council director Mario Caserta, and relatives of Menem's estranged wife Zulema Yoma, most notably her sister Amira. Both Caserta and Amira Yoma have been formally indicted.

Speaking up yesterday, the President said the Radical Party "will have to come up with proof to deny the fact that there has never been more transparency and independence of powers in the Argentine Republic than there is today."

"The accusations they made are extremely serious. They will have to give an explanation in court," insisted Menem.

Taiwan Seeking Argentine Weapons Worth $10 Billion

PY0206002493 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 31 May 93 pp 14, 15

[Text] With $10 billion available for spending, Taiwan is not giving up the possibility of buying weapons from Argentina. Taiwan is now back trying again.

Eduard Metzgar, an American who is the main engine behind this business deal, was in the Defense Ministry last week and left a shopping list which include: 10 submarines, six Meko-140 corvettes, and 50 Pampa airplanes. He also said that the Taiwanese want to participate in the privatization of some military companies, such as the Domecq Garcia shipyard, AFNE [State Shipyards and Naval Factories], and the Military Aircraft Factory.

The political and economic size and complexity of such a business deal also involve obstacles difficult to overcome. Metzgar therefore proposed to Argentine officials not only the tempting U.S. dollars available for spending, but also Taiwan's conditions before going ahead with the operation, which include:

—A request that the Argentine Government officially invite a small Taiwanese delegation (they will pay the costs) to see the ships, airplanes, and military factories. The note must be signed by an official of the Defense Ministry.

—An affirmation included in the invitation that a political decision was made to make the sale, if an acceptable agreement by the two parties is reached.

The second condition has a supplement. The Taiwanese do not want to start negotiatiations if the Argentine Government does not have the firm will to change some of its international policy commitments in favor of a big deal that could bring $10 billion to the Armed Forces and the state.

This is not the first time the Taiwanese have wanted to buy Argentine weapons. Last April CLARIN produced an exclusive report indicating that an operation worth approximately $1.2 billion for the purchase of submarines had failed. At that time the representatives appointed by the Taiwanese did not reach an agreement with Carim Yoma, special affairs secretary of the Foreign Ministry, on the amount of the commission to be distributed.

The Taiwanese representatives insisted and Alberto Kohan, who was then presidential general secretary, became the mediator between the Taiwanese representatives and the Argentine Government. No agreement was reached there, either.

This is the second time Metzgar has visited our country. His first visit was made early in February, when he met

with officials close to President Carlos Menem to reiterate once again the Taiwanese interest in carrying out the operation.

Metzgar knows that only a political decision by the president can change the course of events to one different from that suffered by previous efforts.

Metzgar is president of International Logistics Services Inc., which since 1984 has specialized in the sale of military weapons. Its central headquarters is in Bradenton, Florida, with branches in Washington, London, Buenos Aires, Geneva, and Saudi Arabia.

The company was named the official representative of Domecq Shipyards and AFNE in the successive efforts to sell the submarines, which failed through the interference of a certain official (Yoma case) and for reasons of Argentine foreign policy.

The company is also linked to the official purchasing commission the Taiwan Government has in the United States. That relationship, and other similar preceding business transactions, has led Metzgar to trust that the U.S. State Department will endorse the carrying out of the operation.

In addition to that, according to the information provided by Air Force Chief Brigadier Jose Julia to Defense Minister Oscar Camilion, Metzgar operates in the group headed by John Marini, an admiral of the U.S. International Programs Division of the Navy Department, and would therefore be a guarantee "of good communications" between the Democratic administration and those carrying out the operation. This information was revealed to CLARIN by people who know the secret aspects of the operation.

U.S. consent is necessary for the operation. The situation is this: Taiwan is the PRC's most important adversary in the Asian region, but the Beijing regime has a seat in the strategic UN Security Council.

The power balance involved requires that if a country allied to the United States—Argentina in this case—tries to sell weapons to an adversary of the PRC (Taiwan), the U.S. President must give his authorization, especially if one of the highest aspirations of Argentine foreign policy is to get a seat in that exclusive club.

This is why Camilion believes the business deal is impossible to carry out for now, and that he is not willing to seriously intervene in the matter until he gets precise instructions from President Menem. Of course, Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo also has a lot to say. The PRC is one of the main buyers of Argentine wheat, although sales have been gradually decreasing in the last few years. Despite that fact, the 1992 commercial balance favored Argentina by $200 million.

Nuclear Agency To Become Four Companies Under State Control

PY2905200793 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0606 GMT 28 May 93

[Text] Cordoba, 27 May (TELAM)—Manuel Mondino, chairman of the National Commission for Nuclear Energy (CNEA), said here that "CNEA assets will be transformed into shares but the state will keep control" of the four companies that will make up the holding.

Mondino said the transformation "will mean that the current CNEA will become an operative company with shares controlled by the state and a central CNEA that will keep current agency powers to supervise the use of radioactive materials."

"State Conispa S.A. will be the head of a four-company holding that will generate electricity and produce radioisotopes, nuclear fuel, and highly complex technological services."

Mondino made these remarks during a ceremony he presided over at the Cordoba Factories Center in this capital to commemorate the 43d anniversary of CNEA's creation. On the occasion Mondino said that the use of nuclear technology to produce weapons "has been totally dismissed" because "we should all work for peace."

In his speech Mondino talked about the importance of using nuclear technology in industry and medicine and criticized people he characterized as "professional neodenigrators and slanderers" who criticize CNEA policies. He was referring to some environmental groups that routinely question CNEA activities.

Mondino elaborated on CNEA's peaceful purposes, saying: "We have signed bilateral agreements with Brazil and we have created an Argentine-Brazilian agency on the subject."

Auto Industry, Government Reach Agreement, Renew Plans

PY0206012993 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 1 Jun 93 p 5

[Text] (DYN)—President Carlos Menem, together with Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo and representatives of the various sectors involved in the motor industry, yesterday signed an agreement for the "consolidation of reconversion" of the sector.

Under it, car manufacturers undertake, among other things, to freeze their prices until the end of March next year.

This agreement is an "attempt to renew and improve the plan that was set in motion on October 24, 1991, to reactivate and increase the size of the motor industry," according to a press comunique released by the Economy Ministry yesterday.

The agreement was signed by Cavallo, Labour Minister Enrique Rodriguez, Industry and Trade Secretary Juan Schiaretti and Institutional Relations Secretary Guillermo Seita, for the government.

The motor industry was represented by Manuel Macri (Sevel), Jorge Mostani (Autolatina), Mario Macagno (Iveco), Livio Kuhl (Scania) and Mario Larre Orono (car parts).

Raul Amin from the Smata car workers union and Raul Torres from the UOM metal workers union signed on behalf of workers.

Apart from putting prices in neutral, car manufacturers pledge to keep output high enough to satisfy local demand and export obligations.

The implies that some 340,000 cars will be manufactured this year, an Argentine historic record. Car exports will total some one billion dollars.

The agreement foresees investments of 300 million dollars in the industry as well as a five percent staged wage increase for auto workers.

The motor industry has expanded dramatically since the start of the convertibility plan in 1991 when anual car production stood at 99,639 units.

Production had reached 262,000 units by the end of last year, putting an end to reduced workdays and creating some 15,000 new jobs in the industry.

Bolivia

Police Disclose Security Measures for 6 Jun Elections

PY2905022393 Santa Cruz EL MUNDO in Spanish 22 May 93 National Section p 3

[Text] La Paz, 21 May (ANF)—National Police General Commander Luis Prieto Quiroz has announced that 18,000 policemen from police garrisons throughout the country will guarantee social peace and tranquility during the electoral and post-electoral process.

He said that to fulfill that objective a national security plan having many variables has been drawn up, to be carried out by all the human and technical resources of the institution.

General Prieto said: "The Bolivian Police have the constitutional mission to guarantee social peace and internal security, especiallly during the upcoming elections."

He added that the operations plan for the upcoming general elections is practically ready, and it will be enforced with greater emphasis as of the first days of June.

General Prieto added that during the early hours of 6 June all security units will cover "the strategic electoral sites and other regions that could be vulnerable to criminal or antidemocratic actions."

The police units will also provide logistical support in moving the ballot boxes to the voting centers in order to hold the elections in all departments of the country.

General Prieto also said that the operations plan for the elections includes security for all the candidates participating in the elections.

The National Police will also enforce the security measures of the National Electoral Court, such as the law prohibiting alcoholic beverages, vehicle circulation restrictions, and other regulations.

General Prieto pointed out that to fulfill 100 percent of the strategic objectives during the elections, the National Police will need the financial support of the National Electoral Court.

This request was not accepted by the court.

Prieto then added: "If the National Electoral Court does not have the means to support our units, we will fulfill our missions in accordance with our budget and our human, technical, and scientific possibilities."

'Difficult' Climate Prevails as Elections Approach

PY3105221993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1907 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] La Paz, 31 May (EFE)—Just six days before the country is to hold its third democratic elections, on 6 June, a difficult political and social climate has enveloped Bolivia, due to reports of fraud and workers strikes.

The most important opposition parties today demanded an explanation from the Electoral Court for the surprising increase in the number of registered voters. This increase amounted to some 600,000 voters, far exceeding what the court and political organizations expected.

The climate of political tension due to the dirty electoral campaign further deteriorated due to protest demonstrations by miners, teachers, and electricity and airline company workers, who have announced strikes for the next coming days.

According to official reports, the voting population adds up to a little over 3 million, but only 2 million were registered or had the identity card needed for registration. A million people, mostly peasants, could not register because they do not have the appropriate identify card.

The electoral court reported that 2.4 million Bolivians will vote next Sunday, even though the figure will be confirmed tomorrow, when the process to clean up the electoral registration list ends.

Opposition parties, however, reacted by complaining about alleged official fraud, and demanded an investigation into the matter by the Electoral Court.

Herman Antelo, Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR) campaign director, said the electoral list cleanup process will affect 15 percent of the total registered voters, adding that in the cases of "over 200,000 names, we do not know where they came from." Antelo attributed the artificially fattened figures to the irregular handling of the Sole National Tax Registry and Identification Directorate.

United Left (IU) leader Marcos Domic said that the Interior Ministry had delivered between 160,000 and 180,000 identity cards to Patriotic Agreement (AP) coalition followers, adding that this is a way "to implement a type of fraud that our Electoral Court system cannot detect."

One of the latest surveys shows MNR candidate Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada leading, but without the majority that would enable him to accede to the presidency.

An analysis by the consulting firm "Surveys and Studies" disseminated by Radio Fides has given the majority of congressional seats to the MNR (47). Following are the AP (36), the Solidarity Civic Union (UCS) of beer industrialist Max Fernandez (24), and the populist movement Conscience of the Fatherland (Condepa) of Carlos Palenque (13).

Fifth place was occupied by the left-wing Free Bolivia Movement (MBL) with nine seats. Two seats could be occupied by other minor parties, while 26 seats—essential for a majority—depend on undecided voters.

Meanwhile miners, teachers, and another two groups have decided to stage strikes this week, convinced that they have four days to extract some concessions from President Jaime Paz Zamora's government.

Interior Under Secretary Marco Antonio Oviedo announced the possibility of bringing forward "the special security measures" [auto de buen gobierno] that the prefectures (local governments) have established for election day.

These "special security measures" ban demonstrations, meetings between more than three individuals, the carrying of arms, and the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages.

The implementation of these measures as of tomorrow will prevent the strikes scheduled to begin tomorrow from being staged.

Miners, currently holding a national congress, have decided to begin an indefinite strike to change state mining company policies. Teachers will stop working on 1 and 2 June to protest against a government census of teachers to prevent them from collecting double salaries or the payment of salaries to ghost workers.

Opposition Claims 'Fraud' in Voter Registration Lists

PY0206014493 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1811 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] La Paz, 1 Jun (EFE)—Approximately 45 percent of Bolivian citizens of voting age will not take advantage of their right to vote in the general elections to be held on 6 June, according to data made public today by the National Electoral Court (CNE) of Bolivia.

CNE President Huascar Cajias told the press that even though there are 3.1 million potential voters in Bolivia, "we would score a resounding success if 1.7 million citizens go to the polls in the Sunday 6 June elections."

Cajias nonetheless stated that 2.4 million citizens have registered to vote in the forthcoming elections, and that once voters registry lists are rechecked to eliminate errors some 2.1 million voters will remain.

According to CNE calculations, 1.4 million citizens with the right to vote (45 percent) will not do so for various reasons, particularly as a result of deficiencies in the identification process and in the issuance of documents valid for exercising the right to vote.

Cajias discarded, however, the possibility of fraud in the presidential and congressional elections to be held next Sunday.

The main opposition parties have reported on the possibility that fraud was committed while the lists of citizens registered to vote were being prepared. The parties added that they were reserving the right to request that the elections be postponed and wait for an official CNE report.

The opposition parties were surprised to learn that 2.4 million citizens have registered to vote next Sunday, and suspect that thousands of voters have registered twice to favor the election of the ruling party candidates.

In the last elections held in Bolivia—the elections for municipal positions held in November 1991—the number of registered citizens totalled 1,674,396, while in the last general elections, which were held in 1989, the number of registered voters totalled 2,136,677.

Polls Show Sanchez de Lozada Ahead in Electoral Race

PY0206145293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2008 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] La Paz, 1 Jun (EFE)—According to the latest polls in Bolivia, the majority of voters prefer Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR) candidate Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, while Max Fernandez's Solidarity Civic Union (UCS) votes in Congress will play a decisive role in the election by Congress.

Next Sunday, Bolivia will hold its third presidential and congressional elections of the past 10 years. The polls show that five of the 14 candidates will win seats in Congress.

The polls concluded that Sanchez de Lozada will win most votes but will not achieve an absolute majority, which the Constitution demands in presidential elections.

In this case the Constitution states that Congress will choose the president by an absolute majority (79 votes) between the first two candidates of the three who obtained most votes.

The poll was performed by Encuestas y Estudios. It concluded that the three candidates who will obtain most votes are Sanchez de Losada, retired General Hugo Banzer of the pro-government Patriotic Accord (AP), and Max Fernandez, in that order.

Both Sanchez de Lozada and Banzer need to form alliances with one or several parties with seats in Congress in order to achieve the 79 votes needed for an absolute majority in Congress.

UCS votes in Congress will be decisive for the election, but the alliance of either of the other two large parties with Fernandez' UCS would not guarantee the governability of the country, according to political analysts quoted by the local press today.

Analysts Hugo Mansilla, Rene A. Mayorga, and Jose Blanes told the La Paz newspaper LA RAZON that it would be more appropriate for the MNR and the AP to form an alliance under AP leader Banzer—who also leads the Nationalist Democratic Action (ADN)—than to form an alliance between the ADN and its temporary allies, the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), and the Leftist Revolutionary Front (FRI).

Says Mayorga: "If the idea is to assure governability, the best course would be to form a coalition based on a program agreed by the main political parties, which are the MNR and ADN."

A possible alliance between the AP and the UCS could have unpredictable consequences, because the UCS might be "dangerous for governability," while a coalition between the MNR, Conscience of the Fatherland (CONDEPA)—a minority populist party—and the leftist Free Bolivia Movement (MBL)—a minority party—would be unable to implement sound economic long-term programs, the analysts said.

Mansilla and Blanes said that it would be very advantageous for the MNR and ADN to form an alliance, even if this implies the resignation of one of the presidential candidates.

"History will recognize the major gesture of Banzer if he resigns his presidential aspirations," Mansilla said, adding that the alliance would "guarantee efficient work by Congress and by the government, and greater consensus" in the country.

In the last three elections, Congress had to elect the presidents based on agreements between parties and an assignment of power.

In the elections in 1985, Banzer obtained the largest number of votes but was defeated by Victor Paz of the MNR, the candidate with the second largest number of votes. In 1989, Sanchez de Losada won most votes but Banzer, who came out second, gave his votes to the third candidate, current president Jaime Paz Zamora, of the MIR.

Brazil

CIA Reportedly Draws 'Apocalyptic' View of Brazil

PY0106193293 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 26 May 93 p 7

[Article by correspondent Jose Meirelles Passos]

[Text] Washington—The political and economic situation in Brazil is reportedly creating such concern for the new Democratic U.S. Administration that the CIA took the job of holding yesterday a six-hour "special evaluation meeting" on the country. At the conclusion of the meeting, a working group was created to follow Brazilian events closely. According to a high-level U.S. source, the CIA believes that there is an atmosphere of general dissatisfaction in the country, which is gradually turning into an "intolerable situation." The CIA believes that if the situation continues, there will be a political and social destabilization within six months. No one except the CIA agents know what criteria was used in the evaluation, what information was considered, and where the information on Brazil was obtained, other than from the newspapers.

In an apocalyptic vision of the Brazilian situation, the agents concluded that instability would appear through the looting of supermarkets, an increase in company bankrupcies, and the beginning of dismissals from multinational companies. Analysts from the CIA and from the National Security Council, of the White House, attended the meeting.

After an "evaluation of the situation" by the U.S. agents, Brazil was put on a status of early warning [preceding two words in English] which is an expression used to classify countries that must be monitored with greater attention. This is an "initial warning" signal.

The possibility that President Itamar Franco may not conclude his term was classified as "plausible" by the analysts, who reckoned the country's position "in accordance with plan B." In other words, several choices will be studied in case the president is ousted.

They rule out the possibility of a military coup. The analysis on military behavior took up two hours of the meeting. A specific scenario was reached: There would be no great demands or protests made from either within Brazil or abroad if a military counterbalance existed in the government. In other words: negotiations through which two or three "civilian ministers" were replaced by military men.

Commenting on this situation, an analyst said: It is necessary to have a conservative counterbalance of that type, because if the ship continues in the current direction, it may hit the rocks.

The appointment of Jose Aparecido de Oliveira as foreign minister was defined as "extremely modest." From Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso they only expect that he will not allow the economic situation to get worse.

The best that is expected from him is that inflation will be brought down to 25 percent a month, said a source.

The CIA believes that democracy in the country—as well as in other Latin American countries—is in a transition period in which "the old guards do not want to lose their posts or positions."

President Calls Report 'Hair-Brained'

PY2705233293 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 May 93 p 5

[Report by special correspondent Rodolfo Lago]

[Text] Buenos Aires—"That is so hair-brained and out of proportion that I will not answer. If I did answer, I could only do so in an ill-mannered way, and I believe that the president of country such as Brazil must always remain educated." Without trying to hide his irritation, despite his demonstration of goodwill on the second day of his visit to Argentina, President Itamar Franco on 26 May reacted to the CIA prediction that he will not conclude his mandate. The CIA evaluation is extremely pessimistic with regard to Brazil's future. "I do not know from where they could have gotten that prediction. The atmosphere of optimism here (in Argentina) is the same one that we have in Brazil," Franco stressed.

It is the president's belief that the signals coming from the Brazilian economy indicate that the American agency's forecast is out of tilt. The economy is showing signs that growth is once again on the rise. The dollar is beginning to fall, and the country is expressing its confidence in the new finance minister, Fernando Henrique Cardoso.

"The advent of that negative phase is always expected, but it never arrives. The truth is that Brazil is too large for those people to understand it, far too big for their comprehension," Franco said indignantly.

Brazilian diplomats consider normal the evaluations on Brazil's current state of affairs and policies that are made by international organizations. According to the Foreign Ministry press secretariat, the "meeting for a special evaluation" that the CIA held on 25 May was an informal one that does not reflect a U.S. Government position on Brazil, and therefore no official answer will be issued.

Justice Minister Calls Report 'Affront'

PY2805022793 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 May 93 p 5

[Text] Brasilia—Justice Minister Mauricio Correa considers the CIA meeting that was held to evaluate Brazil's future as an affront to the country's sovereignty.

"I was shocked when I read the report in O GLOBO. To say that there could be a coup in the country within 6 months is the evaluation of a foreign organization that is sticking its nose where it should not. This is a country that, even though it is experiencing difficulties, has its constitution and a free and independent people," Correa said.

Informed by O GLOBO's report that the number of CIA agents in Brazil is on the increase, the minister expressed his concern:

"If this occurs it will have to be approved by us. We will be on the alert. How are we going to permit the presence of foreign agents here in order to know whether or not we are advancing?"

According to Correa, the Brazilian Government does not have any control over the entry into Brazil of the agents of international organizations. He indicated that an effective study is necessary to study the matter and to learn about the degree of concern that the North Americans have regarding Brazil's situation.

"The president will not allow any international organization to interfere in the sovereign activities of the Brazilian people."

Congressmen Reject CIA 'Interference'

PY2905030393 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 May 93 p 5

[Text] Brasilia—Congressmen from all parties and government leaders in Congress have strongly and indignantly reacted against a CIA report published in the GLOBO newspaper. Government leader in the Senate Pedro Simon (PMDB-RS) (Brazilian Democratic Movement Party-Rio Grande do Sul), was the report's harshest critic, announcing that he will call on Foreign Minister Luis Phillipe Lampreia to learn about the position of the Brazilian Government. According to Simon, the CIA's position is an improper interference in Brazil's domestic political affairs.

Bahia Deputy Eraldo Tinoco, who is the PFL [Liberal Front Party] secretary general, believes that the Brazilian Government has been placed in an uncomfortable position.

Tinoco said: Brazilians are entitled to distrust President Franco's ability to resolve the crisis in the near future, but by disseminating this opinion all over the world the CIA is guilty of improper interference.

During Simon's speech in the Senate Mario Covas, the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] leader in the Senate, read the entire report published by GLOBO, and interpreted each consideration included in the text.

Covas said: It is true that Brazil needs aid, but it does not need advice.

Roberto Freire (PPS-PE) (People's Socialist Party-Pernambuco State), government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, chose to speak sarcastically about the CIA's predictions.

Freire said: The CIA must be suffering from an identity crisis following the end of the cold war, when its lack of moral standards became obvious.

Foreign Ministry Downplays Report

PY3105141193 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 29 May 93 p 5

[Text] Brasilia—The Foreign Relations Ministry considers that assessments of Brazil's domestic policy made by foreign agencies are normal. According to the Foreign Ministry's Press Secretariat, the analyses of Brazil's current situation made by the CIA and the Pentagon do not represent the U.S. Government's official stance on this issue and therefore no official comments will be made on them.

Unofficially, however, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry yesterday tried to downplay the evaluation made by the Pentagon on the country's political and economic situation. O GLOBO newspaper learned that the U.S. Defense Department held these assessment meetings due to a real concern about what is happening in an area where there are major American interests, both on the part of the government and private companies.

An Itamaraty source said: We are also anxious and worried about our country's future. It is only natural that we should be worried.

As far as the Foreign Ministry is concerned, President Itamar Franco and Justice Minister Mauricio Correa will make no further statements on meetings such as the ones held by the CIA and the Pentagon.

To conclude, the aforementioned source said: Startled reactions are not much good.

Recession in Military Industries Viewed

PY0106235193 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 May 93 p 9

[By Roberto Godoy]

[Text] The industry is reorganizing and counting casualties: The pioneer group Engesa [Specialized Engineers, Inc.]—which led the industry with its Cascavel, Urutu, and Jararaca armored vehicles that were supplied to 32 countries—is bankrupt, and Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] is without money or orders and is experiencing the worst period in its 25 year history. Embraer expects to be privatized.

The network of 120 companies that provide spare parts and components for giants in the area of defense and aerospace has been dissolved while those companies that still operate have had to change their fields. Motopecas of Sorocabana and Bernardini of Sao Paulo, which were responsible for the modernization of assault vehicles in the 1960's have withdrawn from the military field.

The fight goes on along two fronts: The internal front, which is affected by the crisis, and an external front, which is determined by the political force of competition.

Recovery—Between 1983 and 1987, Avibras Aerospace Industry Inc., located near the Santa Branca dam, sold military equipment worth at least $400 million to northern Africa, the Middle East, Indochina, and Central America. The enterprise at one time had 5,500 employees, but now operates with only 700. After closing or selling its subsidiaries—among them a collective transport company—Avibras is cautiously beginning to recover sales abroad.

Engineer Joao Verdi was the only Third World representative invited to a seminar that the Russian Government promoted in 1992 as part of its effort to convert its huge industrial-military structure to civil purposes. Engineer Verdi believes the world market for defense materiel at least another five years of difficulties ahead because of the excessive offer stemming from the sale of eastern bloc equipment following the dismantling of the USSR.

The buyers who currently concentrate on the Persian Gulf region "are controlled by U.S., French and British manufacturers—the leaders of the coalition that won the war against Iraq. Political conditions are not right for buyers to supply their armed forces through other countries."

Verdi believes, however, the following analysis is right for promoting sales: "The Pentagon is modifying the artillery doctrine of the U.S. Army, emphasizing the use of saturation rocket systems, which are more efficient and cheaper than conventional cannons. This means that the entire world will follow the U.S. example. In this area, Avibras has a 10 year advantage of production, development, and testing of such systems in battle. No one else, not even the United States, has that."

Secretariat Analyzes Reasons for Military 'Dissatisfaction'

PY0106003493 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 May 93 p 7

[Article by Roberto Godoy]

[Text] President Itamar Franco was not surprised by the rapid increase of tensions in the barracks over the past three months; the Strategic Affairs Secretariat (SAE) has kept Planalto Palace informed of the activities of "rebels" among the troops. These individuals are officers of around 30 years of age, who are discouraged by their lack of professional prospects. The SAE chief, Admiral Mario Cesar Flores, has briefed Itamar Franco about commanders' concerns. But Franco commented to at least one of his usual advisers in the academic field that "the presidential team is reluctant to discuss matters affecting the military community."

This opinion is shared by a former Army minister, who said that "colonels were in preparatory schools at the time of the 1964 revolution, and received a very solid ideological training. This is why they are now well disciplined and ready to accept the new rules of the political liberal game." The general said the focus of the problems is located among younger officers, "among captains trained within a rather chaotic ideological system, captains who see themselves forced to continuously seek support outside the barracks to shore up the professional concepts for which they are conditioned."

The SAE determined that one of the main factors determining this dissatisfaction is the lack of resources to fulfill regular missions and poor operational equipment. The survey concludes that the budget must be tripled—from $1 billion (close to 410 trillion cruzeiros) to $3 billion (1.23 quadrillion cruzeiros), or 3 percent of the gross domestic product [GDP]—in order for the Armed Forces to recover their firing power and professional competitiveness. The SAE cites studies conducted from 1983 to 1985 on force reductions of up to 40 percent. This means a troop reduction from the present level of 296,000 men to 178,000 men, over four years. This drop will lead to the growth of essentially professional troops. The purpose of the change will be to provide the country with a trim, agile, and specialized Armed Forces with standards similar to those in France and the United States, and with a basic salary of around $1,800 (73.8 million cruzeiros). "Today we do not need to equip the Army with an infantry trained to fight a conventional enemy who is supposed to arrive by the sea and land on our coasts," the former minister said. "It is much more sensible to increase the number of special forces, jungle troops, anti-terrorist personnel, and commando squadrons."

SAE information analysts use the word "sedition" (rebellion, revolt) when projecting medium-term scenarios "if present conditions remain unchanged." Flores agrees with the terms. "What we have in the country today, even though in a still feeble form, are secessionist or separatist ideas which are signs of civil disobedience," Flores said. "The problem is that those ideas are just the visible tip of indications that the political and social fabric is in crisis."

Civil Household Chief Henrique Hargreaves considered the latest report "shocking." According to the document, during a semi- clandestine meeting in the interior of Sao Paulo State three weeks ago military officers participating in the meeting considered democracy "a system incompatible with the picture of economic and social crisis the country is living through." The report's conclusion implies that the Brazilian political crisis is due "to the destruction of society's values because of corruption, impunity, and the adverse actions of foreign interests."

Chile

Government Recalls Ambassador to Guatemala

PY0106005593 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] The event that took place in Guatemala a few days ago, a self-coup by the Guatemalan president, does concern the Chilean Government. For this reason the Chilean Foreign Ministry has recalled its Ambassador Christian Bisquertt to Santiago, to report on the Guatemalan situation.

This information was disclosed by Foreign Under Secretary Rodrigo Diaz Albonico this afternoon. Diaz explained that this decision was made to evaluate future actions by the government. Diaz pointed out that the Chilean Government is following the Guatemalan events with profound concern. He also said that there is no sign of willingness by Guatemalan Government officials to return to the state of law and to democratic institutions. Therefore, Diaz reiterated the validity of the obligations assumed by Guatemala in the Santiago Commitment for Democracy.

Diaz Albonico also said that Chile conveys its solidarity with the democratic institutions suspended in Guatemala, and that it condems the measures of force being implemented in that country. He also called for full respect for human rights in Guatemala.

Aylwin: 'Government Does Not Negotiate' With Subordinates

PY0106204093 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1[illegible]0 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Relay from Oslo, Norway, by Maria Angelica Rodriguez]

[Text] Chilean President Patricio Aylwin has emphatically stated in Norway that the government does not negotiate with subordinate institutions.

Aylwin said this during a news conference when asked about the results of alleged negotiations in Santiago between civilian and military authorities.

Aylwin explained that what happened is just a minor incident.

[Begin Aylwin recording] Over the past few days a few painted faces [carapintadas], not many of them, demonstrated on the streets. Army authorities have voiced concern over what they regard as actions against their institution. [end recording]

Aylwin added that the main cause of this unrest is allegedly the publicity granted to some cases being heard by the court, cases which affect—or which may affect—Army members.

[Begin Aylwin recording] In my opinion, this is unjustified and an extremely gullible attitude. A state of law prevails in Chile and decisions by the court, which is an independent branch, should be respected by all citizens. [end recording]

Answering another question, President Aylwin explained that the Constitution does not provide for confinement to barracks. The internal movement and functioning of the military units is the exclusive concern of the institution.

[Begin Aylwin recording] There is no petition by defense institutions to carry out activities, to deliberate, or carry out activities in the political sphere. This would never be considered, nor would the government accept it in any way.

Naturally, that does not prevent the government, through the appropriate channels, from analyzing any situation related to the institutional functioning of any branch of the Armed Forces or state organ. [end recording]

President Aylwin stressed that normalcy prevails in the country and that the authorities are exercising their duties. Aylwin disclosed that upon his return he will, naturally, voice his support for the performance of the vice president of the Republic and other authorities.

Opposition Leader Backs Government Position on Army Actions

PY0106205593 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Report by Claudia Zamora from La Moneda Palace]

[Text] The National Renewal Party [RN] has voiced its agreement with and support for they way in which the government has and is handling the subject of the reinforcement of military security measures around the Armed Forces headquarters on Zenteno Street, next to Bulnes Square, last Friday 28 May.

This was stated by RN President Andres Allamand, who held a one-hour meeting with Vice President Enrique Krauss.

Allamand said he told Krauss about RN's full confidence in the soundness of the Chilean democratic system, and its agreement with government authorities that the difficulties with the Army that have surfaced must be channeled through institutional mechanisms in searching for a solution.

Andres Allamand also denied that comments he or other RN leaders may have made about the Army could partially be the cause of the Army's unrest and concern, or may have promoted actions such as the ones that took place on Friday.

Allamand stated, however, that when this type of tremor takes place everyone must work to prevent it from turning into an earthquake.

[Begin Allamand recording] In a transition process, when this type of tremor takes place I believe we must all work united to prevent it from turning into an earthquake, so that the difficulties dissolve into a climate of harmony betweem civilians and the military, always respecting constitutional order. [end recording]

Allamand also referred to the Armed Forces organic law, noting that in discussing this subject the atmosphere must be one of absolute calmness and normalcy, one which is not currently prevailing. Therefore, he said, this is not the appropriate moment to discuss this subject.

Chamber of Deputies Issues Declaration on Army Actions

PY0106211293 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Report by Jose Manriquez Contreras from Valparaiso]

[Excerpt] The Chamber of Deputies has issued a public declaration on the recent developments bringing unrest to the public, in referring to the Army actions of last Friday 28 May.

The declaration, which was read to the media by Chamber of Deputies President Jose Antonio Viera-Gallo, reads, quote, the relationship between the Armed institutions and civilian authorities has, up to now, developed within a framework of mutual respect and the law, each one devoted in its specific duties to the well-being of the country.

[Begin Viera-Gallo recording] It is only normal that within a transition process situations may surface which cause unrest or concern in various sectors of society, including the Armed Forces, which must adjust to new situations.

Third: This circumstance should not weaken, and still less overlook, the existing institutional channels through which those concerns may be expressed and adequately assessed and solved. [end recording]

He then goes on to say, quote, it is important that all those engaged in public activities, and especially state institutions, make an effort to safeguard the climate of understanding and social peace which has granted our

country international recognition for the maturity of its behavior and the vigor of its democratic traditions.

The declaration ends by stating that this has been the spirit with which this body has always sought to act in freely and fully exercising its legal right to supervise, unquote.

This was the public declaration by the Chamber of Deputies, read by its President Jose Antonio Viera-Gallo, who was accompanied by Chamber of Deputies Second Vice President Patricio Melero of the Independent Democratic Union, Guillermo Yunge of the Christian Democratic Party, Victor Barrueto of the Party for Democracy, Carlos Smok of the Socialist Party, and Jorge Morales and Hugo Alamos of the National Renewal Party, all of whom are presidents of their respective committees. [passage omitted]

Socialist Leader Lagos Criticizes Army Position

PY3105134293 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] Ricardo Lagos, at the end of the convention in which Eduardo Frei was proclaimed presidential hopeful for the Coalition of Parties for Democracy, rejected the recent developments involving the military.

Lagos criticized the fact that the Army is annoyed by the executive branch's intention to modify the Armed Forces' organic law and the law stating that the commanders in chiefs are unremovable:

[Begin recording] Every president of the Republic has enjoyed this power since the times of Bernardo O'Higgins. No president has ever politicized the Armed Forces by exercising this power. I believe it very serious, very serious. There is talk that one of the things causing unrest is the fact the president of the Republic wants to restore this power. That cannot be. [end recording]

Lagos ended by stating that the government version of the deployment of troops on 28 May is unsatisfactory.

Israeli Embassy Denies Pinochet Declared Persona Non Grata

PY0106013693 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 31 May 93

[Text] The Israeli Embassy in our country today clarified that the reports that Chilean Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet had reportedly been declared persona non grata came from nonofficial sources.

The Israeli Embassy pointed out that neither the Israeli Government nor the Foreign Ministry had made official declarations on this issue. The information that Gen. Pinochet would not be allowed to visit Israel as planned was broadcast on 30 May by Radio Israel, which is an official voice. The radio station did not, however, mention any official sources, but rather sources linked to the Israeli Foreign Ministry. The Radio Israel announcement indicated that a decision had been made to declare Gen. Pinochet persona non grata due to human rights violations in Chile during his regime. The radio announcement added that the foreign press had reported in May that Gen. Pinochet was planning to visit Israel, but that the visit was not made.

The note released by the Israeli Embassy in Santiago is based on the fact that the embassy has not received any notification declaring Pinochet persona non grata in Israel.

Aylwin Arrives in Denmark, Speaks on Economy

PY2805022493 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 May 93

[Text] We now have a report by journalist Manola Robles, our special envoy who is covering President Patricio Aylwin's tour of northern European countries and Russia. Good afternoon, Manola.

[Robles] Good afternoon. President Aylwin and his entourage, who were joined by Economy Minister Jorge Marshall, this afternoon arrived in Copenhagen, Denmark, on the first official visit by a Chilean president to that country. Aylwin was welcomed by the authorities, although on this occasion, the journalists' attention concentrated on Mining Minister Alejandro Hales, who this morning suffered from a brain vascular spasm.

As we have already reported, Hales fell ill at around 1000. The spasm slightly reduced mobility on the right side of his body. When deplaning from LAN [Chilean National Airline] flight No. 001, which is carrying the presidential entourage, the minister had clearly overcome this condition. This was the minister's brief conversation with journalists at Copenhagen airport, where he denied reports on the withdrawal of major Finnish investors from Chile's mining plan:

[Begin recording] [Hales] I have overcome it and I am doing quite well.

[Unidentified reporter] Mr. Minister, will you be able to continue until the end of the tour?

[Hales] Of course! That is what I am here for. I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to note that it is not true that [words indistinct] will withdraw from Chile, but to the contrary. During our conversations, his interest has been reaffirmed, not only in the current (Zaldivar) mine but also in future partnerships for prospecting.

[Reporter] Mr. Minister, how are you feeling?

[Hales] Very well, very well. [end recording]

We should recall that Hales was received a brain scan and a neurological test at the Finland University clinic hospital. The tests did not reveal any localized damage,

for which reason he continued with the tour. The medical report was released by Professor Dr. Gonzalo Sepulveda, the chief of the presidency's health service.

President Aylwin's last activity in Helsinki was a lecture to the members of [name indistinct] Foundation, an institution that seeks to preserve the policy of a former Finnish president, after whom the foundation is named and who advocated preservation of peace and security in the country.

Aylwin said that stable and equitable economic growth calls for a democratic political system. He proudly said that all Chileans, the unions, entrepreneurs, politicians, and also the opposition, have worked together.

When referring to the past, Aylwin said that the crisis of 1973—the military coup—was far from being just an upheaval in the barracks. He said it was a deep crisis in Chileans' perception of the nation.

As for the future, the president said it is necessary to overcome outdated Third World attitudes and to actively engage in world trade, opening our economies.

He concluded by saying that Chile has obtained unprecedented results in the area of investment, and that it is showing with facts the inaccuracy of the assertion that Latin Americans have no devotion to scientific or technological work.

Discusses Apple Export Problem With EC

PY3105155793 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 May 93

[Report by Maria Angelica Rodriguez from Norway]

[Excerpt] Chilean President Patricio Aylwin discussed with the Danish prime minister, who currently is EC chairman, the problem that Chilean apple exporters are facing due to the restrictive quotas imposed by the EC.

This was disclosed by Economy Minister Jorge Marshall, who in turn expressed this concern to the EC agriculture ministers.

[Begin Marshall recording] I took a letter from the Chilean agriculture minister to the 12 EC agriculture ministers. In this letter the minister requested the implementation of an exemption clause to the compensatory rights that [words indistinct] the apples.

I personally delivered this letter to the Danish agriculture minister, who is president of the EC Agriculture Ministers' Commission. [end recording]

Marshall believes the EC agriculture ministers were not fully aware of the situation. Therefore, he said, he was able to explain it to them in detail. [passage omitted]

Eduardo Frei Proclaimed Coalition's Presidential Hopeful

PY3105173493 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 31 May 93

[Excerpts] The Coalition of Parties for Democracy [CPPD] proclaimed Senator Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle its presidential hopeful during the major CPPD convention at the Diego Portales Building.

The nine-hour event, which was attended by more than 3,000 people, was opened by Christian Democratic Party [PDC] Secretary General Genaro Arriagada on behalf of the national committee that organized the convention.

After the national anthem was sung, the people attending the event watched a video on the CPPD campaign for the no-vote [1988 plebiscite to decide whether Augusto Pinochet should remain in government], clips of the 1989 elections, and an address to the nation by President Patricio Aylwin.

This was followed by an address by Ricardo Lagos, former pre- candidate for the Socialist Party [PS] and the Party for Democracy [PPD] alliance, who said that thanks to the CPPD primaries and convention, the CPPD presidential hopeful is much more legitimate than if he had been elected behind four walls. [passage omitted]

Once the first part of the convention was over, the conventioneers gathered to work with the committees in charge of designing the next government's program.

In the afternoon, the presidents of the CPPD member parties, who were joined by former Humanist Party president Jose Tomas Saenz, agreed to form part of and support the next government that will be headed by presidential hopeful and Senator Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle.

The presidents of the four political parties that organized the convention, that is, German Correa of the PS, Sergio Bitar of the PPD, Carlos Gonzalez Marquez of the Radical Party, and Gutemberg Martinez, acting PDC president, addressed the event. Each of them referred to the work done by each of their political parties to project the CPPD's unity into the next presidential period and proclaimed Senator Eduardo Frei the presidential hopeful.

Last, after being greeted with a standing ovation, presidential hopeful Frei made a speech.

Frei promised to finish those tasks still pending to consolidate the democratic system, such as abrogating the law by which the Armed Forces' commanders in chief are unremovable and the amendment of the electoral system and the judicial branch.

At a very moving moment, Frei addressed Ricardo Lagos, to whom he reiterated his friendship and thanks. He noted that they will continue to work together for Chile. Lagos got up and, obviously moved, applauded Frei. [passage omitted]

Frei then announced that he will resign as PDC chairman in the next few days due to the fact that he now has been proclaimed the CPPD's presidential hopeful. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Pablo Escobar's Attorneys Resign

PA0206014993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Pablo Escobar's attorneys have resigned from the drug lord's defense team, alleging that due process has not been guaranteed in his case. In other words, it is impossible to ensure any protection for their client prior to his standing trial. Salomon Lozano, a spokesman for the attorneys, explained the situation.

[Begin Lozano recording] Due process is not guaranteed. We have received many threats against our lives and personal integrity, which has prevented us from fully reviewing the steps that are being taken. It has not been guaranteed to us that the steps being taken against Pablo Escobar at the Attorney General's Office will adhere to the laws governing due process. [end recording]

Gaviria Urges Congress To Pass Law on 'State of Exception'

PA0106160093 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria urged the Congress today to expedite passage of the law on the state of exception. He made the appeal during the commemoration of the 86th anniversary of the Jose Maria Cordoba Military Cadets School. In his speech, he said that the law on the state of exception will permit the struggle against violence to be continued.

[Begin Gaviria recording] At this moment, I want to stress the importance of approving a statutory law on the state of exception that will reflect the true necessities of the country. The law must fulfill the dual purpose of legitimizing the action of the public force and guaranteeing the protection of the fundamental rights and liberties of citizens, while at the same time offering the state the necessary powers to deal successfully with the different manifestations of violence that threaten democracy, liberty, and institutional order. [end recording]

Paraguay

Congress Approves Elections, Declares Wasmosy President

PY0206022093 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 2 Jun 93

[Text] Congress this afternoon approved the judgment made on the 9 May general elections. During this afternoon's session Engineer Juan Carlos Wasmosy was proclaimed the new president of the Republic, and the opposition bloc's majority in the next Congress was confirmed.

[Begin recording] [Reporter Gustavo Fretes] Congress proclaimed Juan Carlos Wasmosy and Angel Roberto Seifart from the Colorado Party the new president and vice president of the Republic of Paraguay.

During a plenary session the president of the special committee that studied and passed judgment on the vote tally records reported on the work done and requested the plenary's approval.

[Senator Jorge Raul Garcete] I also want to emphasize the enormous human qualities of this group of congressmen who, after 12 or 14 hours, never lost their sense of humor. They thus avoided dramatic overtones in the discussions. Even though we occasionally got excited, we also managed to allow the sound judgment and lofty goals that motivated our work to finally prevail during the discussions.

[Fretes] PLRA [Authentic Radical Liberal Party] legislator [Rodolfo] Gonzalez Garavelli raised some objections concerning irregularities, but he nevertheless accepted the unanimous judgment.

[PLRA] Deputy [Juan Manuel] Benitez Florentin pointed out that the PLRA considers that the elections were neither clean nor honest. Our transition process has thus not concluded, he noted.

[Benitez Florentin] Despite the huge and illegal inequalities, and so many irregularities, the PLRA and the opposition have achieved a victory that is even greater in considering these irregularities, achieving a majority in both chambers, five governorships, and a large number of departmental board members.

[Fretes] Another four Colorado Party legislators and a Febrerista Party legislator also approved the judgment.

Congress President Gustavo Diaz de Vivar presented the special committee's judgment for legislators' consideration. The legislators, with the abstention of PLRA legislators [Domingo] Laino and Benitez Florentin, unanimously approved the judgment.

Congress therefore proclaimed the new president and vice president of the Republic, senators, deputies, governors, and departmental board members.

[Diaz de Vivar] Those congressmen who agree with the bicameral committee's judgment, which was unanimously approved, please lift your hands.

It is unanimous. The bicameral committee's judgment is thus hereby approved. [applause]

Therefore, Messrs. Congressmen, the list of president of the Republic, vice president of the Republic, deputies, senators, departmental board members, and governors that is in the hands of each one of you is hereby proclaimed. [end recording]

Wasmosy Not To Promote Ties With Cuba, PRC

PY2905165993 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 29 May 93 p 11

[Excerpt] The likely president-elect, Juan Carlos Wasmosy, yesterday said his government will not promote the holding of negotiations aimed at establishing ties with Cuba and the PRC. Asked whether he will implement an opening policy toward Cuba and the PRC, Wasmosy said: "We will continue to uphold the policy of maintaining ties only with democratic countries."

In spite of Wasmosy's position, we were unable to discus with him his views about the regimes in Peru and Guatemala, which have de facto governments.

Moreover, Wasmosy stated that he will not be traveling to Europe next week as previously announced. He added that in July he will be traveling to Germany, where he will meet German Government officials and businessmen. [passage omitted]

Government Withdraws Armed Forces Organization Bill

PY2805230193 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 28 May 93 p 6

[Text] The draft bill on Armed Forces organization will be amended by the executive branch itself to minimize some of the objections raised against it by legislators and improve its chances for approval, probably during the next congressional session.

In effect, the executive branch has withdrawn the document from the Senate where it has been bogged down since 6 May. The executive sent a note to the Senate signed by President Andres Rodriguez and Defense Minister Eumelio Bernal saying that the decision to withdraw the bill was prompted by "the executive branch's decision to introduce some needed corrections into the bill."

The executive will thus prevent legislators from making changes themselves. In any case, the two Senate commissions examining the document did not seem eager to speed up study of the bill, and some of their members have even said that there would be a recommendation to leave the bill for study by the new Congress. Legislators from the ruling party as well as the opposition expressed reluctance to examine the bill during this congressional period, which ends on 30 June. In view of this situation the executive branch decided "to soften" the bill's contentious sections, the main part of which creates the position of commander of military forces, and trim down the commander in chief's responsibilities.

The original bill proposes that some of the constitutional responsibilities of the commander in chief be left in the hands of the commander of the military forces, such as the prerogative "to order on his own" the movement of officers up to the rank of lieutenant colonel, and to amend military regulations.

The executive branch is also preparing a draft bill to replace Law 847 on Military Personnel Regulations. This document, however, is apparently objected to by some sectors within the military institution, and has a practical-legal problem. In effect, the bill seeks to establish a new legal framework for "Public Forces" personnel, considering them as a single body—that is, it includes both military and police personnel. But yesterday the Chamber of Deputies approved a bill creating the National Police, and this will be the natural basis for regulations affecting police personnel.

The Military Personnel Regulation is quite important because it includes norms for promotions, the legal framework for the operation of the Promotions Tribunal, the hierarchical organization of military units, and the system and regulations on retirements, among other things.

President To 'Review' Withdrawn Bill

PY2905184193 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 29 May 93 p 9

[Text] Salto del Guaira—President Andres Rodriguez confirmed here yesterday that we withdrew the draft bill on Armed Forces reorganization from Congress in order "to review it" and because the document was no longer going to be analyzed by current legislators because their mandate ends on 30 June.

Regarding the controversial position of military forces commander, Rodriguez made clear that the decree will not be shelved, adding that as commander in chief he had the prerogative to create that position.

"I have withdrawn the draft bill because I was told that Congress would study it only after the new members were seated. We will review and improve it. We intend to reintroduce the bill after the new Congress is seated. If legislators accept it, all right, and if they do not accept it...well, they will reject it," Rodriguez said.

Asked if he would shelve the decree creating the position of commander of the military forces, the president emphatically said: "No sir."

Rodriguez said the function was entirely independent and asked those interested to read Article 238, Item 9, of the Constitution in order to clearly interpret what it says. Rodriguez said the president is the Armed Forces commander in chief, a position the president does not delegate. But the commander in chief has the responsibility for appointing the public forces' commanders, that is, the commanders of the military and police forces.

"The commander in chief is responsible for appointing the commander of the military forces and the commander of the police forces. I appointed a commander of the military forces and as soon as the National Police is organized, if I am still president, I will appoint a commander of the police forces. This will complete my constitutional prerogatives," Rodriguez concluded.

The president repeatedly refused to talk in Salto del Guaira with reporters about the matter, but then he relented and made the aforementioned remarks about the controversial proposal to reorganize the Armed Forces that, according to some analysts, seeks to trim the powers of the next civilian president.

Army Commander Expresses Surprise

PY3105155393 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 30 May 93 p 9

[Text] Army Commander Division General Pedro Ocampos was surprised by the executive branch's decision to withdraw the military organization draft bill from Congress. He said that it probably was to make some adjustments to the bill. Ocampos admitted that he had just returned to the country due to personal problems.

When asked his opinion about the draft bill, the military commander said he agreed with it, although he admitted that personally he had no problem subordinating himself to authority, whether civilian or military, nor did he think the Armed Forces will have any problems subordinating itself to a civilian president.

In Ocampos' opinion, the creation of the post of commander of military forces will by no means affect the Armed Forces, taking into account that it is designed to obey orders rather than give opinions.

Although he refrained from giving an opinion on the contents of the draft bill, taking into account that he is not fully acquainted with it, Ocampos said that perhaps the bill is being reconsidered.

The Army commander ended by stating that "everyone wants to harmonize the situation," adding that all negotiations should have a happy ending.

Foreign Minister To Ecuador, U.S., Nicaragua, Colombia

PY0106230793 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 1 Jun 93 p 9

[Text] Paraguayan Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken yesterday afternoon left for Quito, Ecuador, thus beginning a tour of various American countries. He and his Ecuadoran counterpart will later go to Washington to participate in a special OAS meeting to discuss the Guatemalan institutional coup.

The foreign minister will then go to Managua, Nicaragua, where the regular OAS Foreign Ministers Assembly will be held, and will complete his tour in Bogota, Colombia. While in Colombia, a developing country, the Paraguayan foreign minister will sign an agreement on investments mutual protection and promotion that will create the conditions for both countries to make direct investments.

A cooperation agreement between the two state organizations involved in the construction of low-cost housing will also be signed in Bogota. The two organizations will exchange experiences, seeking to optimize the use of funds.

Because of flight connection problems, the foreign minister had to leave one day early and will begin his official one-day visit to Ecuador at noon today. Protocol ceremonies, decoration ceremonies, banquets, and the signing of three agreements and a declaration of intention by the two foreign ministers are scheduled. They will sign a cooperation agreement between the two diplomatic academies to exchange curricula, scholarships, and other forms of assistance, and an agreement on scientific, economic, and technical cooperation. An effort will be made to identify the most competitive products to enhance the poor level of bilateral trade.

While in Quito, the foreign minister will also discuss ways to regulate the establishment of Paraguayan-Ecuadoran enterprises that will implement joint industrial projects.

Concerning the coup d'etat in Guatemala, the foreign minister stressed that the democratic system has mechanisms to fight crime, subversive outbreaks, and corruption. Frutos Vaesken expressed his concern over the repetition of these incidents that trouble democracy. He emphasized that we are experiencing an almost unprecedented period in history because most countries in Latin America have governments that were legally elected by the people.

During the regular OAS assembly in Managua, Nicaragua, the OAS foreign ministers will review development problems and social inequalities which threaten the survival of democracy. Talks will also begin on the election of a new candidate for the post of OAS secretary general to replace Joao Baena Soares.

Peru

Fujimori on Possibility of Being Candidate in 1995

PA0206152093 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori disclosed to the Japanese media his doubts regarding his candidacy for the 1995 presidential elections. It was reported that the Democratic Constituent Congress is preparing an amendment to the Constitution. Nevertheless, Fujimori said it was not his intention to make [illegible] reforms in his favor. The Peruvian people will decide. Fujimori said he was in favor of an immediate reelection, but this does not mean that he is assuring himself a new period in the Peruvian Government. In April 1995 I will decide whether I will be a candidate for reelection or not, Fujimori noted.

Armando Villanueva Elected New APRA Secretary General

PA2805202393 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Armando Villanueva del Campo has been elected as the new secretary general of APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance]. The APRA plenum also ratified Alan Garcia as secretary general in exile.

[Begin recording] [Villanueva] This is an overwhelming responsibility for me. I, for the fourth time, am secretary general of the party at age 77, but I think that I have the unanimous support and cooperation of my fellow party members. I was elected without any opposition.

[Unidentified reporter] What will be Alan Garcia's position now?

[Villanueva] Alan Garcia was confirmed in his post of secretary general in exile.

[Reporter] At this time, the APRA delegation is leaving the sports field. [end recording]

Pardoned Officer Holds News Conference, Reads Communique

PA3005211593 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 29 May 93

[Text] General Jose Pastor Vives, one of the pardoned officers, held a news conference on 28 May and read a communique issued by the 11 soldiers released from jail in which they reaffirm their reasons for participating in the thwarted November coup.

The soldiers, who were implicated in the 13 November coup attempt and later pardoned by President Fujimori, reaffirmed the constitutionality of their actions. Division General Jose Pastor Vives, the highest officer pardoned, said there is no solid reason for granting a presidential pardon to only 11 of the 20 soldiers involved in the attempt as they were all sentenced for the same incidents, and above all because the pardon only ends their confinement but does not eliminate the charges.

Vives said the document signed by the released soldiers reaffirms their commitment to continue struggling until those who are still in jail are released. They also reported that they had been abused and physically and psychologically tortured since their arrest.

[Begin Vives recording] We have heard that Fujimori said he is considering another pardon. We hope that is true and we demand that a pardon be granted as soon as possible to the nine soldiers who are still in jail. We believe that action would certainly contribute to bringing peace to the country and to help iron out some of the differences that exist in the Army. [end recording]

Venezuela

Deputy Velasquez Seen as Likely Provisional President

PA0206023293 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] During a session of Congress that lasted several hours, it was agreed that the person who will be president of the Republic for what remains of the current term of office will be chosen on 4 June. There is every indication that this person will be Ramon J. Velasquez, considering that he enjoys the consensus and support of the majority faction in Congress.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified deputy] The stands of both Copei [Social Christian Party] and the Congress Board of Directors on this matter are very clear. We attended a congressional commission meeting on the morning of 1 June, but an agreement could not be reached. Consequently, we had the Chamber of Deputies debate the subject.

[Second unidentified deputy] Democratic Action [AD] and Copei represent, not only 80 percent in this Chamber, but between 80 and 85 percent of the country's voters. If the two organizations, together and separately, have met with the Episcopal Conference, businessmen, labor unions, military sectors, and the country's leading organizations; have reached an agreement on the procedure; and even suggested names from which to choose a provisional president on 4 June, the procedure should not be stopped only because four or five parties, whose names or acronyms no one can even remember, object.

[Third unidentified deputy] It is the Congress' duty to choose a president and do it as soon as possible, particularly if a broad consensus is in the process of being reached. So far, no one has objected to the name that is being mentioned frequently on the street and by the media. There has not been a single objection to the candidate's name, not even during this very long debate, which was the time to present excuses and objections. This being so, why should we delay the decision any further? The reasonable thing to do is to present a solution to the country soon. [end recording]

The minority factions, however, rejected the decision because, they say, all of the civilian sectors have not yet been consulted regarding their remarks, recommendations, and demands.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified deputy] More than 10 days ago, we proposed a method to find a solution. We proposed that the Congress, not AD or Copei, should choose the president of the Republic, although AD and Copei members are Congress directors. We are dealing with a basic problem, which has to do with the Congress as an institution. [end recording]

The procedure to be applied in choosing the provisional president will be established according to internal and debates regulations.

Senator Velasquez will demand special powers as an essential condition to become provisional president. Asked by the media, Velasquez said his candidacy should be determined by a broad national consultation. He added that consensus should not be mistaken for unanimity, because unanimity is fatal to democracy. He said it is essential to make decisions according to the country's present situation, an action that requires special powers because otherwise whomever assumes office as president would have his hands tied.

[Begin Velasquez recording] This stage in Venezuela's experience is very positive, but it develops at such a speed that every day is equivalent to a month. For whomever who assumes office as president, these seven months will be equivalent to a full term because of the speed and pressure with which demands are presented, and because of the fiscal conflicts we face. Can you imagine having in the treasury 150 billion signed orders that cannot be paid? What will the new government do? [end recording]

Acting President Comments

PA0206031093 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 1 Jun 93

[Text] Acting President Octavio Lepage praised the possibility that Ramon J. Velasquez could become the provisional president and said that Velasquez is a Venezuelan who fills the requirements for deserving the obedience and respect of all Venezuelans.

President Lepage pointed out that, if the provisional president is not appointed in the next few days, he will sign the proposed military promotions and will send them to Congress, as the list is very long and each of the officers included on it must appear before the Congress' Defense Commission, a process that takes some time.

Regarding the approval of the Entitlement Law, which authorizes Congress to grant special powers to the new president, he said he supports the law, as long as it is limited to concrete matters.

[Begin Lepage recording, in progress] ... particularly with regard to the approval of the economic law; the tax law, which is urgent; and since the sessions will end on 15 August, it would also be preferable to approve the entitlement law, so as to avoid the risk that they could be left without approval. [end recording]

Acting President on Replacement, Economic Issues

PA2905171093 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 28 May 93

[Report by Annerys Gonzalez]

[Text] According to Acting President Octavio Lepage, the next president must be a man of recognized integrity whose basic characteristic is austerity.

In his first news conference from Miraflores Palace, Acting President Octavio Lepage described the necessary characteristics for the provisional president who will be elected by the Senate.

[Begin Lepage recording] I hope the president who will replace Carlos Andres Perez is not elected as a result of favoritism shown to an easygoing friend who spends freely and can be manipulated from a distance.

The country would not tolerate this. It would be a serious political mistake if the party leaders dealing with this issue, which will determine the successor to Carlos Andres Perez, did not take this circumstance into consideration. [end recording]

Concerning the polemics over his 30 or 90 day stay at Miraflores Palace, Lepage said that Article 188 of the Constitution indicates that he should remain in the post for one month. But he explained that the interpretation that he remain in office for 90 days may also be accepted. In any case, he continued, it would be inconvenient to wait until the last minute to make such a decision.

Regarding the revision of economic policies during his interim administration, Acting President Octavio Lepage said that at this time it would be very risky to make changes. He said he believes that the so-called economic package is the result of the country's good economic orientation.

[Begin Lepage recording] Obviously during my short administration, no modifications can be made. The next government will have to make an objective and unbiased assessment of the situation. It will have to put dogmatic views aside to determine—based on the specific results—the measures that have yielded positive results, which should therefore be maintained, and those that have failed, which have caused damage and negative results instead of the advantages they pursued. [end recording]

With regard to the military promotions that should take place in the next few days, Acting President Octavio Lepage explained that his office is considering the issue. He said he is not sure that he will be the one to report these promotions.

Armed Forces Do Not Support Any Presidential Candidate

PA2905043893 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 27 May 93

[Report by Cecilia Pachano]

[Text] Defense Minister General Ivan Dario Jimenez Sanchez has denied that the Armed Forces support any presidential candidate. The defense minister acknowledged that the Armed Forces High Command has met

with some political groups to brief them on the negotiations under way in Congress to designate an acting president. He reiterated that the Armed Forces are not involved because they are bound to comply with constitutional provisions. Jimenez took the opportunity to confirm the desertion of Lieutenant Zambrano.

[Begin Jimenez recording] Our intelligence organizations are looking for Zambrano. I know he deserted approximately five months ago from the Merida headquarters and escaped from Santa Ana. I do not have any more information. [end recording]

Asked about military promotions, Gen. Jimenez said the lists may be signed by President Lepage by week's end and submitted to Congress between 31 May and 1 June for final approval. The defense minister reiterated that changes in the high command will take place as scheduled, that is, between 22 and 25 June, at which time he will transfer the command to his successor.